Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 171

www.saipantribune.com | TUESDAY AUGUST 27, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Saipan Invincible Lions Clubs holds charter and induction ceremony. PAGE 3

2 injured, 2 arrested as riot erupts at Garapan bar. PAGE 4

Missing teen case reclassified as truancy

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A collective sigh of relief swept the community after 15-year-old Tegan Quitano, who was reported missing last week, was found, and according to authorities, staying with a family member.

Quitano

However, according to the Department of Public Safety, as of yesterday afternoon, the case had been reclassed to one of truancy.

Truancy is any intentional, unjustified, unauthorized, or illegal absence from compulsory education. It is a deliberate absence by a student's own free will and usually does not refer to legitimate

See MISSING on Page 4

CEC wants stay on bill allowing voting at any polling place on election day

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission wants the Senate to hold off on enacting Senate Bill 23-68 which essentially amends the CNMI voting laws to allow voters to cast their votes at any polling place on election day.

During a previous CEC board meeting, CEC executive director Kayla Igitol asked that the board submit comments on Senate Bill 23-68 which seeks to amend Commonwealth voting laws. Specifically, the bill would amend the law to allow voters to vote at any polling place on election day.

According to Igitol, it re-

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'We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month' proclaimed
WE WILL NEVER FORGET:
FIELD OF HEROES
ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11
Tan Holdings
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

RACQUEL FLOYD

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang pose with representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Public School System, Transportation Security Administration, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation staff during the signing ceremony declaring September as "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month" yesterday morning at Governor's Office on Capitol Hill. **See more photos on Page 2**

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang proclaimed September as "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month" yesterday morning at the Governor's Office conference room on Capitol Hill.

The proclamation, which marks the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks, also saw Palacios honor first responders including law enforcement, healthcare workers, and school staff for their dedication and sacrifices.

The governor also commended Tan Holdings president and CEO Jerry Tan and "We Will Never Forget: Field

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Manuel A. Sablan, 79

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI mourns the death of one of its founding fathers, Manuel A. Sablan, who crusaded alongside 12 others over 50 years ago to establish the Commonwealth Covenant as we know it today.

Early yesterday morning, the CNMI was struck with saddening news after learning of the passing of Sablan, 79, a member of the Marianas Political Status Commission which negotiated the Covenant with the U.S. ultimately establishing the CNMI as we know it today.

Sablan has served the CNMI in more ways than one throughout his lifetime. He served as deputy chief of the Economic Development Division under the Department of Resources for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,

See MANUEL on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Commonwealth founding father Manuel A. Sablan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Manuel A. Sablan, right, poses for a photo with wife his Del Boyer Sablan.

INSIDE

LOCAL
In the heart of the Western Pacific, on the small island of Saipan, a remarkable story of cultural preservation and community building has emerged.
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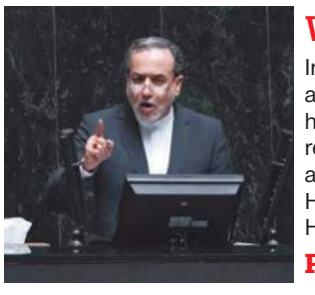
BUSINESS
Google will soon give California millions of dollars to help pay for local journalism jobs in a first-in-the-nation deal, but journalists and other media industry experts are calling it a disappointing agreement that mostly benefits the tech giant.
PAGE 9

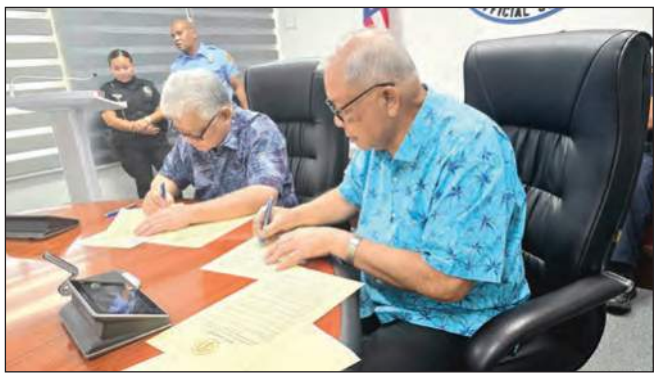


WORLD
Iran's foreign minister again has referenced his country's planned retaliation over the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.
PAGE 10

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

"We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month" Proclamation Signing

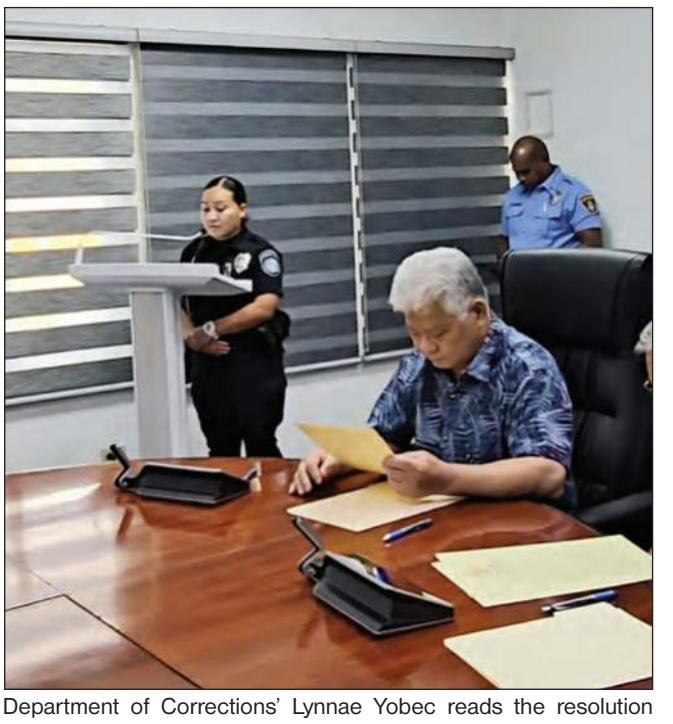
PHOTOS BY RACQUEL FLOYD



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, left, and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang sign the proclamation designating September as "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month."

Tan Holdings president and CEO Jerry Tan said the corporation has been spearheading the 9/11 commemoration since 2016.

Representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Public School System, Transportation Security Administration, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation staff were in attendance during the reading and signing of the proclamation.



Department of Corrections' Lynnae Yobec reads the resolution declaring September as "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month" yesterday morning at Governor's Office on Capitol Hill. To her left is Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Police sergeant Patrick Arriola served as emcee of the "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month" proclamation ceremony declaring September as "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month" yesterday morning at Governor's Office on Capitol Hill.

Tan Holdings Community Relations vice president Catherine Attao delivers her message and discusses the program that will take place on Sept. 11 on Tinian, Saipan, and Rota.

Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Twenty newly chartered members of Saipan Invicible Lions Club were inducted by Lions Clubs International District 204 past district governor Blanca Imbo, left in purple vest last Aug. 18 at the Saipan World Resort.

Saipan Invincible Lions Club holds charter and induction ceremony

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Lions Clubs International's Saipan Invincible Lions Club held a charter and induction ceremony last Aug. 18 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

SILC is the 13th Lions Club of District 204 Region 2.

A total of 20 members of the Saipan Invincible Lions Club were inducted to the newest Lions Club of the islands, namely Ian B. Manalo, Ryan Mar N. Sicat, Roland B. De Vera, Karla May Angelou G. Martinez, Princess Mae T. Bacinillo, Marnel G. Cunanan, Merwin A. Dela Cruz, Robin V. Galangga, Anne Janine Macauyam, Romeo H. Dela Torre, Exequiel B. Figueroa, Shirley A. Santos, Ardelyn D. Sicat, Madelyn N. De Vera, Allen Bartolome, Danielle Ann Acosta, Christian Angelo De Guzman, Sly Fetcher Quintos, Eloisa Elayda, and Jeff Elayda.

No less than Lions Club District 204 past president Blanca Imbo inducted the new Lions Club members.

The Saipan Invincible Lions Club is a chartered club of Saipan Pacific Lions Club and was officially recognized as an official Lions Club last May 20, 2024, according to the past president Sandra Bartolome.

The club's charter president Ian B. Manalo expressed gratitude in his acceptance speech to the members and sponsoring club, Saipan Pacific Lions Club.

"I am deeply grateful for the trust and confidence vested in me to lead. It is often said that when one determines life's purpose, one can then organize all activities around it. This truth resonates with my life's purpose for the Saipan Invincible Lions Club. I firmly believe that our club, as a member of District 204, Region 2, will thrive due to the unity and collective commitment of all members to serve the community and provide crucial assistance to those in need from the depths of our hearts. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the Saipan Pacific Lions Club for their belief in our capabilities to serve humanity, enrich the spirit of Lionism, and embody the true spirit of Lion with our unique identity," he said.

Aside from Imbo, the event was also attended by the District 204 district governor Roy Adonay from Guam, along with the first vice district governor Ronald Hidalgo, and past district governor Loisa Cabuhat. They were joined by the second vice district governor Eden Mercado from Saipan, together with region chair Marcelo Masilungan, past district governor Atoy Banting, and other officers.

The event was presided over by Saipan Pacific Lions Club president Noemi Catigan, followed by the reading of the Lions Club's purpose and code of ethics. Fr. Charlie A. Borja, the newly named apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, delivered the invocation. The induction and candle-lighting ceremony highlighted the event.

The mistress of ceremony was Annamae Adaza and event was concluded with a group photo.

Name: Clara Taisakan Ogumoro
Address: P.O. Box 501771 CK,
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-285-1519 / 670-287-2281

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct:	FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0289
Clara Taisakan Ogumoro Petitioner(s)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on September 30, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 23-0024**
vs.	**NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION**
HERMAN GABRIEL S. CABRERA Jr. and JACKIELYN V. ESPINOZA, Defendants.	

TO: DEFENDANT JACKIELYN V. ESPINOZA

This Notice of Hearing is hereby served upon you by publication to notify you that the Court has set a hearing on September 5, 2024 @10:00am. The hearing will be held before Judge Joseph Camacho on the Summons, Amended Summons, Complaint in the above-styled matter, at the Superior Court for the CNMI, Guma Hustisia, on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Attorney for the Plaintiff is Robert T. Torres, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950.

DATED this 20th day of August, 2024.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 2:30PM at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of July 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. PERMIT REVIEW
  1) CRM Permit No. RMS-2024-065
  Project: ROTA ROUTE 103 & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
  Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
  The Route 103 and Drainage Improvement Project is a 3.5-mile coral road with 12-foot-wide travel lanes in each direction and 4-foot-wide shoulders on each side of the traffic lanes. The project begins east of Rota Resort and Country Club and ends at the asphalt of the Rota International Airport.
  a. Agencies' Discussions
  b. Agencies' Determination
IV. OTHER MATTERS
V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its **Regular Board Meeting** on **Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held in the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    I. June 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
    II. July 25, 2024 Special Board Meeting
  E. Correspondence
II. Management Reports
  A. Executive Director's Report
  B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
  C. Legal Counsel's Report
III. Old Business
  A. Update on Chief Financial Officer Hiring
  B. CUC Drug Policy
  C. Update on CHCC Payment Status
  D. PFAS/PFOA Multistate Litigation
  E. Proposed Changes and Updates to CUC Classification & Compensation Plan
IV. New Business
  A. CUC Organizational Chart
  B. Proposed Changes and Updates to CUC Human Resources Rules & Regulations
  C. CUC Travel Policy
  D. Appeal to 24-001-PS
V. Public Comments*
VI. Executive Session**
VII. Announcement
VIII. Adjournment

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO
Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, to consult with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

2 injured, 2 arrested as riot erupts at Garapan bar

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

What began as a late-night outing turned violent last Sunday when a riot broke out at the Flamingo Tavern in Garapan. The bar fight left two individuals injured and two others in police custody.

According to the Department of Public Safety, the incident was reported at approximately 11pm, Sunday night, and is currently under investigation.

Assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon Manacop shared that according to reports the altercation erupted between two groups inside the nightlife spot. The fight escalated quickly, resulting in one individual suffering a puncture wound to his back and another sustaining a laceration on his hand. Both victims were promptly treated at the Commonwealth Health Center and have since been released, with their injuries deemed non-life-threatening.

DPS officers responding to the scene arrested two other male individuals for the riot. The men have been booked at the Department of Corrections, currently under charges of rioting. Manacop said that due to the number of people involved it would require more time for investigation to determine all charges before submission. The identities of the individuals involved have not been disclosed as the investigation remains active.

Manacop stated that law enforcement is working diligently to uncover the details surrounding the incident.

Saipan Tribune reached out to the owner of the establishment, but they were unable to comment at the time.

As authorities continue their investigation, DPS urged anyone with information regarding the incident to report it to the authorities. The department remains dedicated to maintaining order and preventing future occurrences of violence in the community.

MISSING

From page 1

excused absences, such as ones related to medical conditions.

Assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon T. Manacop shared with media that despite efforts to contact and locate the teen, detectives believe that Quitano refuses to return to her immediate family.

The DPS has issued a reminder to the community that Quitano is still a minor, and anyone found sheltering her without parental consent could possibly face criminal charges.

"CIB would like to remind the community that Tegan is a minor child, and that no consent was given by parents/guardians to house or shelter her," said Manacop. "Those assisting in sheltering a minor without consent may be charged with a criminal offense."

Quitano was initially reported missing after she failed to attend school for several days, prompting widespread concern and a community-wide search. Last seen in Kagman, she was believed to have been picked up by an SUV, sparking fears for her safety.

DPS detectives, who have been working tirelessly on the case, have shifted their focus to addressing the underlying issues of truancy. Earlier yesterday morning, Manacop shared that DPS was working with Department of Youth Services on communicating with the teenager to find out if she's safe.

The circumstances surrounding Quitano's refusal to return home are still under investigation, and the DPS continues to urge anyone with information or recent contact with Quitano to come forward. The community's cooperation has been invaluable, and authorities are hopeful that ongoing efforts will help resolve the situation amicably.

Those with information about Quitano's truancy case are encouraged to contact the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau at (670) 664-9042, DPS Headquarters at (670) 664-9001, or Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272 if they wish to remain anonymous.

As Quitano's case transitions from a missing person investigation to a truancy matter, the DPS remains committed to ensuring that all involved parties, particularly the minor, receive the support and guidance they need. Further updates will be provided as more details emerge.

CEC

From page 1

mains uncertain when the Senate aims to enact this legislation.

However, with general elections just around the corner, Igitol expressed that it could be challenge for CEC staff to accommodate a drastic change just a few months before.

The CEC board agreed that this would be a challenge and decided that they'd request the Senate to hold off on enacting this legislation (or at least make it so that this year's election is exempted from the change) due to the close proximity of the upcoming general elections.

Last Aug. 12, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) filed Senate Bill 23-68, which would allow registered voters to cast their votes at any polling precinct on election day.

In his bill, Manglona used Tinian voters as an example stating that Tinian voters who are on Saipan for medical treatment, government representation, or are accompanying a family member would have to return to Tinian to vote on election day.

"This requirement does not make any sense," he said.

Currently, the law allows eligible voters to cast their ballot at any polling place during the early voting period if they cannot be physically present on election day.

The Senate bill aims to amend Commonwealth election law to allow any registered voter to vote at any polling place even on election day.

MANUEL

From page 1

Associate director of Economic Planning under the Office of Transition Studies and Planning for the U.S./CNMI Planning Commission, executive officer for the NMI Interim Government, special assistant for Planning Budget under the Office of the Governor, and executive director of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (a position he has held from 2010 up to his passing).

Aside from being an ever-loyal public servant to his beloved Commonwealth, Sablan was also a devoted husband, a loving father to six children, and a doting grandfather to 12 grandchildren.

Sablan was survived by wife Del Boyer Sablan, his children: Melvin, Manny Jr, Mark, Michelle, Meredith. and Monique, and his 12 grandchildren.

In honor of Sablan's legacy, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios ordered all CNMI and United States flags displayed at all public buildings be flown half-staff until the day of Sablan's internment.

"It is with profound sadness that we convey the passing of Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, a dedicated and distinguished leader who served our community with unwavering commitment and integrity. Mr. Sablan was not only a key figure in our economic development but also a pivotal contributor to the very foundation of our Commonwealth, serving as one of the CNMI Covenant negotiators. His work during this crucial period laid the groundwork for the political and economic relationship we share with the United States today," said Palacios.

Palacios also recognized Sablan for his unwavering service to the CNMI.

"Throughout his career, Mr. Sablan held significant roles within the CNMI government, including his leadership as the executive director of Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, where he played a critical role in fostering economic growth and supporting the aspirations of the CNMI community. His service extended beyond the economic sphere, with a commitment to the public that saw him contribute to the development of our islands in multiple capacities. Mr. Sablan exemplified the values of service, leadership, and compassion. His work has touched countless lives, and his legacy will endure in the many initiatives he championed. His absence leaves a void that will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. On behalf of the people of the Commonwealth, we extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Sablan's wife, Del, his children and grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. We stand with you in mourning the loss of a remarkable individual who devoted his life to the betterment of our islands. As we reflect on Mr. Sablan's life and legacy, let us honor his memory by continuing to pursue the vision and values he upheld. May he rest in eternal peace," he said.

Lawmakers also paid tribute to Sablan's legacy in statements to *Saipan Tribune.*

"We are deeply saddened to hear the passing of CEDA's executive director Manny Sablan. Mr. Sablan through his involvement with our Covenant negotiation was very instrumental in financially shaping our Commonwealth to be able to access the capital market in order to build our economy and infrastructure. The last I saw him was June 14, 2024 at the CEDA office and we were briefly discussing how we can address the CNMI's financial dilemmas to include the mounting deficit. We are forever grateful for his service to our Commonwealth and our deepest condolences to his wife Del, children, and the entire family. We will miss him and may he forever Rest in Peace with our Heavenly Father," said Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan).

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HEROES

From page 1

of Heroes Month" volunteers who have worked through the years to ensure the event is remembered.

"We've been doing this since 2016 so this is our ninth year. TSA was established after 9/11, and I guess for the last 23 years after our nation was attacked in 2001 all first responders and other government agencies have kept Americans safe," said Tan.

He added that the islands have been safe but terrorism remains a persistent threat, citing as an example the recent cancellation of Taylor Swift's concert in Vienna, Austria due to terrorist threat.

Department of Corrections' Lynnae Yobec read the "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month" proclamation by highlighting the significance of the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks. She emphasized the profound impact of 9/11 on the nation and resilience shown by its citizens in the face of tragedy. She explained that the resolution commemorates the lives lost during the attacks and the ongoing support for the families affected by the tragedy.

The resolution includes words honoring and extending gratitude to the military and veterans who continue to defend the nation against terrorism. It also remembers community heroes who responded to natural disasters, including typhoons, and utility personnel who maintain public quality of life during storms. Medical personnel were also recognized for their efforts in responding to the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes Month," U.S. flags throughout the CNMI will be displayed at various parks in coordination with community partners to honor the lives lost and the heroic actions taken by first responders, veterans, and medical personnel.

To this end, the community is being encouraged to join the "We Will Never Forget" ceremony on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Yobec mentioned that gardens filled with U.S. flags serve as symbols of peace and a reminder of the community's heroes and other noble acts.

"We hope that our beautiful gardens of red, white, and blue fields adorn with American flags will remind us of the three noble acts of our community heroes...courage for red, pure intentions for white, and remaining vigilant for blue, and serve as a symbol of peace and healing for our community."

The proclamation will serve as a lasting tribute to the memory of the 9/11 tragedy and the brave individuals who put others before themselves, added Yobec.

Tan Holdings Community Relations vice president Catherine Attao-Toves acknowledged the support and partnership from various organizations in keeping children safe, especially in light of past threats in schools. She reflected on the impact of the 9/11 event 23 years ago, emphasizing how it changed lives globally and locally. She also added that the Field of Heroes event, organized by the Tan Sui Lin Foundation and government partners, is highlighted for its role in raising awareness about community heroes.

Attao-Toves also emphasized the importance of creating healing fields throughout the Northern Mariana Islands to honor community heroes and remember those who have passed. The event aims to amplify respect and gratitude for community heroes and never forget the daily sacrifices they make.

She mentioned that the color for this year's event is RED which stands for Remember Everyone Deployed.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with all our military personnel who are deployed fighting against terrorism, but also to our NMI fighters who were recently deployed to the U.S. mainland."

Attao-Toves ended her message by inviting everyone to the Sept. 11 activities on Tinian. The ceremony will begin at 10am and a freedom walk will start at 4:30pm on Saipan. She also added that this year will be different as they will start at the court of honor at American Memorial Park due to road construction.

According to Attao, the 9/11 ceremony on Rota will be on Sept. 13.

Representatives from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Public School System, Transportation Security Administration, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation staff were in attendance during the reading and signing of the proclamation. Police Sgt. Patrick Arriola served as the ceremony's emcee.

The power of music: How one man's vision united a Pacific island community

By DEL BENSON
Special to Saipan Tribune

In the heart of the Western Pacific, on the small island of Saipan, a remarkable story of cultural preservation and community building has emerged. Tony Mareham, born in 1948, is not just a musician but a visionary who used the universal language of music to combat social issues and unite diverse cultures.

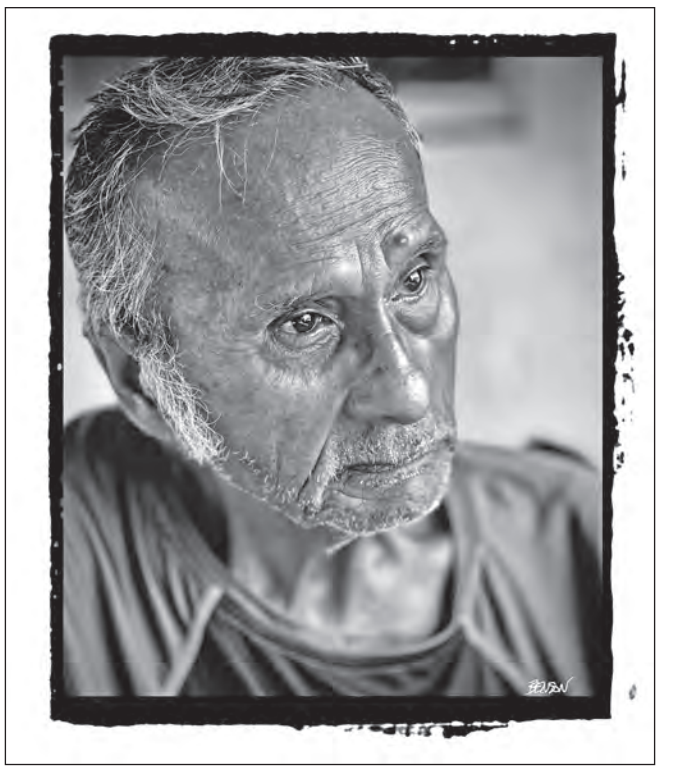
Mareham, who grew up in Chalan Kanoa before moving to Oleai, recognized a growing problem among the island's youth in the early 1970s. Concerned about the increasing prevalence of underage drinking, he decided to take action. His solution? Form a band.

"The Carolinians," as the group came to be known, wasn't just any band. With Mareham as the lead guitarist, it became a beacon of hope and purpose for young people across Saipan. "We usually played for families, community functions, and religious events," Mareham recalls. But the impact of their music extended far beyond mere entertainment.

For over two years, The Carolinians served as a cultural melting pot, bringing together Chamorro and Carolinian traditions through music. The band became a vehicle for cultural exchange and preservation, with members singing in both Chamorro and Carolinian languages. This fusion of cultures was revolutionary for its time, fostering unity in a diverse island community.

The band's influence spread rapidly. Young people, drawn to the allure of music, began learning instruments like the ukulele, embracing what Mareham calls the "island style." The group's popularity even led to performances on neighboring islands Tinian and Rota, necessitating travel by both Pan Am flights and boats.

But perhaps the most touching aspect of Mareham's story is how music shaped his personal life. It was at a local fiesta, during one of the band's performances, that he met the woman who would become his wife. "The music of the fiesta brought us together," Mareham reminisces with a smile.



DEL BENSON
Tony Mareham formed The Carolinians in the early 1970s.

Today, as Saipan faces rapid modernization, Mareham's story serves as a poignant reminder of the power of cultural initiatives in shaping communities. His vision of using music to guide youth away from harmful behaviors and towards a sense of purpose and cultural pride remains as relevant as ever.

The legacy of The Carolinians extends far beyond their two-year run. They exemplify how grassroots efforts can have lasting impacts on communities, preserving traditions while fostering unity. As we look to address modern social issues, perhaps we can take a page from Mareham's songbook, using the arts as a tool for positive change and cultural preservation.

15 trainees complete the Penn Foster Dental Assistant Program

NMC
Northern Marianas College's Area Health Education Center, in collaboration with Penn Foster College, trained 15 students in dental assisting. Participants learned about a variety of topics, including dental anatomy, materials, radiology, infection control, chairside assisting, pharmacology, and ethics.

Through the Northern Marianas College's Area Health Education Center, 15 trainees completed the Penn Foster Dental Assistant Program, a curriculum designed to prepare students for a career in dental assisting.

Over the past three months, trainees were able to complete 10 courses and 16 exams that covered a wide range of essential topics such as dental anatomy, materials, radiology, infection control, chairside assisting, pharmacology, ethics, and more.

NMC sophomore and dental assistant trainee, Kinamarie Dela Cruz, expressed her interest in the dental field and how it led to her decision to enroll in the Dental Assistant Program.

"I saw this program as a great way to start and begin my learning process into a possible career path for me," she said. "After receiving my certificate I want to find opportunities in which I can gain more experience working as a dental assistant, as well as applying the knowledge I've gained through this program."

Marian E. Miranda, a second-year NMC student and dental assistant trainee, shared her experience going through the Penn Foster Dental Program, "At first, I genuinely did not expect to be able to participate in this program given that admission was selective, but I am grateful to have been one of the selected students to join this summer's cohort! With the certification provided after completing this program, I plan to delve into exploring a career in dental assisting here in the CNMI," she said.

Erica Davis, deputy director of Hawaii/Pacific Basin Area Health Education Center, expresses, "We're thrilled to have partnered with the Northern Marianas College to offer this dental assistant program to local students. The dedication and hard work of the trainees are truly inspiring, and we're confident they are well-prepared to embark on successful careers in dental assisting."

For more information on the Penn Foster Dental Assistant Training Program, contact the NMC Area Health Education Center at ahec@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Marianas Agupa, Rota Chamber of Commerce to host 1st Senatorial District forum

The Marianas Agupa Radio Talk show announced that there will be a forum for the First Senatorial District forum between incumbent Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) and challenger Ronnie M. Calvo on Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024 from 10am to 11am.

During the forum, there will be three minutes given to each candidate for an opening statement.

Questions that will be asked are formulated by the Rota Chamber of Commerce on current issues facing Rota and the Commonwealth today. A three-minute closing statement for each candidate will be given at the end of the forum.

To listen live on Magic 100.3 F.M. starting at 9am until 11am. Live streaming will be made available via https://s3.radio.co/s8f738b862/listen or thru TuneIn radio at https://tunein.com/radio/KWAW-FM-1003-s43718/ or watch live on Marianas Agupa YouTube at youtube.com/channel/UC5heKROsqcSVHg5ztadbDHA?sub_confirmation=1 or Marianas Agupa Facebook live.

For more information on the forum, contact Glenn H. Manglona at gmanglona@gmail.com or (670) 287-4536. ***(PR)***

Garapan Street Market returns on Aug. 29

The Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture is bringing back one of the most popular nighttime activities in the Marianas, the Garapan Street Market in downtown Saipan.

The weekly market—suspended since the pandemic—will hold a soft opening on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, from 5:30pm to 10pm at a new location, Coral Tree Avenue in front of Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

"We're very pleased to bring back the Garapan Street Market for our residents and visitors this month, as we know it is a fun evening activity that people have been eagerly awaiting," said CCAC executive director Gloriana Teuira. "We're starting small this first night and will continue to grow as attendance also grows."

The market features a variety of international cuisine, free live music and dances, arts and crafts, and more. To enliven the main tourist district of Garapan, the market has been returned to its original location on Coral Tree Avenue between Paseo De Marianas and Palm Street, where the road will be closed from 2pm to 12 midnight on market nights.

"We've been working very closely with the Dept. of Public Lands, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Department of Public Safety on the launch, which will bring back a sense of life and excitement to the heart of our tourist district," said Teuira. "And a special thanks to Marianas Visitors Authority for providing seed money and other support so that the council could get this event restarted. Tourism is everybody's business!"

The MVA welcomed the relaunch.

"We're very excited and grateful to the Arts Council for re-launching Garapan Street Market, especially now at the high peak of summer travel season," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Our Community Projects team has been working closely with them, and we are already promoting it as a great nightlife option for our visitors."

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture at (670) 322-9982 or email glorianafolkarts@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 171

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Prime time for Harris—As the full-fledged nominee, Harris has a case to make

This evening, Vice President Kamala Harris will officially accept the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, an outcome that seemed impossible just a month ago. Despite his disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump, President Joe Biden seemed determined to stay in the race, until he suddenly wasn't.

If Biden hadn't folded, tonight he would be at the podium in Chicago heading into a tough rematch with the candidate he beat four years ago, but this time trailing in the polls in all the battleground states.

Or Biden could have dropped out to a some kind of mini-primary nominating process, with candidates vying to fill the vacuum, each backed by their own donors and supporters wrestling for the nomination. This week the convention could have opened without a clear nominee and a pending floor fight.

Instead, Harris managed to glide into her undisputed candidacy almost seamlessly and generate significant nationwide excitement as Trump's campaign tries to recalibrate its targeting away from Biden. The nomination wasn't a fight, but a celebration. It's undeniable that Harris has been able to capitalize on the moment, with her and vice presidential nominee Tim Walz hitting a rhetorical tone that seems to have gotten under Trump's skin.

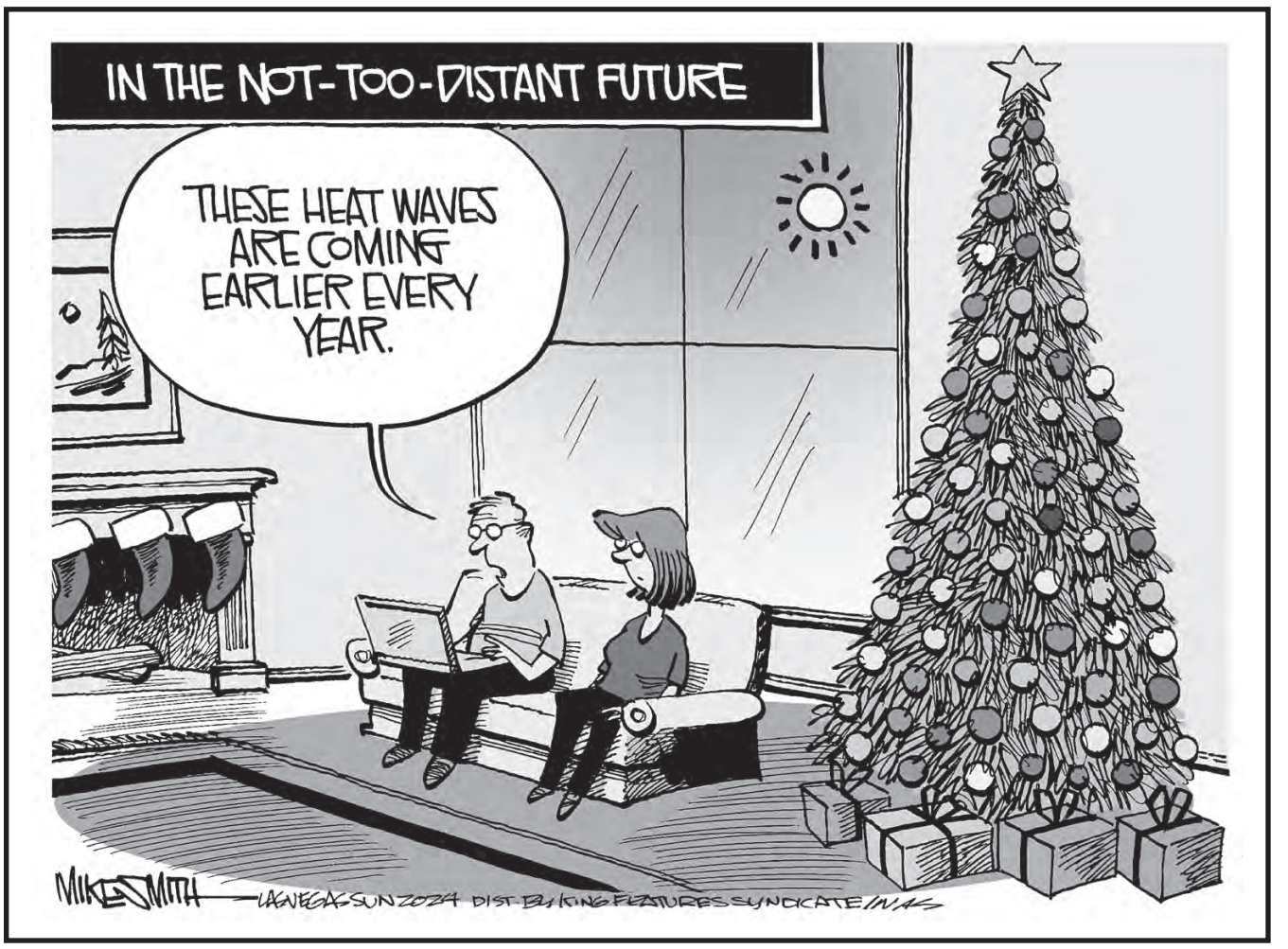
While VP Harris—having done so well so fast—doesn't need political advice from us, her task becomes much harder tonight as she makes the case for a President Harris to the widest audience she has ever faced. Everyone has a view of Trump, love him or hate him, having been the Republican nominee now for the third time and four years service in the Oval Office. Harris, despite being vice president, is far less known to the electorate.

She should articulate a vision for how her would-be administration will make life better for Americans around the country. If Harris wants to win (which is the point of this exercise and why Biden withdrew) she shouldn't consider it enough to merely point out that she's not Trump and argue that Trump is bad.

She would be wise to take the opportunity to really own an economic vision, one which addresses the jitters voters have consistently had despite an on-paper soaring economy. That means being straightforward about cracks like recent figures showing significantly lower jobs numbers over the 2023 and the first half of 2024 than had previously been estimated. Americans are anxious about numbers like these, and about the soaring costs of child care, housing and inflation that has stabilized but still had a significant impact on prices; the campaign would be well-served to target those concerns.

Ultimately, all voters will have to make up their own mind about who they believe would be a better representative of their interests and values in the White House; neither we nor anyone can make that decision for them. But the Harris campaign has certainly positioned itself well off the potentially chaotic springboard of the unprecedented drop-out of the sit-

See HARRIS on Page 7


IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE
THESE HEAT WAVES ARE COMING EARLIER EVERY YEAR.
MIKE SMITH —LAS VEGAS SUN 2024 DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE, INC.

Pulling weeds—AT&M economic reform

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett an economist who minored in sociology. A political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison fellow (U.S. Constitutional Scholar), and Fulbright-Hays & lifetime Humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The truth of the matter is our economy is still sliding off the edge of a cliff while we waste money on the Cannabis Commission and people suffer austerity. The arrivals are even down, not up as predicted by those with their push for China. I must ask, starting with Jude Hofschneider who first brought up the idea to pursue China and the others who pushed China, what happened! Why did you, Jude, conduct a kangaroo trial and set Ralph free to trigger more havoc with over $17 million more in damages? Being a real economist it is so darn painful to see our leaders just make one mistake after another while the CNMI continues to decline. Heck, we are experiencing austerity after a nearly $2-billion booster shot in the arm for our economy figuratively—it's horrific and even a horror story ripe for a movie if Ralph is ever convicted on his RICO charges in federal court. As stewards (voters) responsible for the CNMI, we as a people must do better as we must pull the weeds." But the one thing we can't afford to mess up is Washington! We must elect a Democrat to work with a Democrat Congress and President—just the truth and reality of the political arena in Washington and our situation.

The weeds that are now overgrown and exposed is the Cannabis Commission that must go. Thanks to my friend and social, political, and sports guru Bob Coldeen, we now have the final piece of the puzzle with Alcohol-Tobacco (A&T) and now Marijuana (AT&M). Commerce as the custodian for licensing, mayors, and municipal councils for local ordinances and governance for events, and the inclusion of the Alcohol-Tobacco eliminates the entire need for the director and enforcement, as A&T are already setup for enforcement and state issues can remain with the CNMI's legislature. We can eliminate the entire CC, saving around $300,000 a year all while creating the conditions for a self-driven cannabis industry to thrive at no cost to our government just like the hotel industry and other businesses. The reform will always keep us in the black from licensing, fees and taxes, not red.

The dispensaries need to unite like the hotel association who sponsor their own events and advertisements or there may not be any. However, the reform does eliminate all CC's cost as the "Alcohol, Tobacco & Marijuana Reform Act," (AT&M Reform Act) thanks Coldeen and his wisdom. Our CNMI literally owes you for another homerun Bob. FYI readers, the advertisement would actually "support the CNMI being a family destination," as I have been yelling for the change to a family destination since around 2012. I warned then the WWII tourism model was dying a slow death and now it's virtually dead, as the tourists with connections to the CNMI and the war were dying. Cannabis tourism must become part of our new tourism model whether we like it or not, as it is legal and we do want to make money from the sales! But the bigger challenge is not so much reforming the cannabis industry, it's reforming our tourism model so MVA can really have something new to promote and sell to tourists. we need attraction(s) like a theme park, especially for children, more than anything to be a family destination. But no one is doing the work thinking investors are going to just drop in an save us like angels—duh!

We must also be mindful that the alcohol and tobacco industries were built on billions of dollars in advertisement, and it is "necessary and proper" for the CNMI's government to give the cannabis tourism industry a "shot in the arm" to get started—but it's also time to cut-bait with a commission idea that didn't work. I'm sure the concerns are "We can't just advertise to come and smoke marijuana in the CNMI" and they are right. That's why the governor asked me, a real economist artist with a BA degree who was "educated and trained to work in thinktanks, thinking in/outside of paradigms." Without giving away my pearls (intellectual property), I can assure the people that the advertisement is not direct but a "methodology driven by the everyday practices of adverse and subliminal advertisement with a standardized warning about marijuana in the CNMI and to respect the CNMI laws and the laws of their country." There will be no advertisement saying, "come and smoke marijuana in the CNMI." So, the integrity of the CNMI being a respectful family destination will continue to be respected while promoting the industry subliminally, as it's about common-sense reform. We can "chew gum and walk at the same time" if the industry is to be reformed, as we will save money and finally make money! Guam has entered the race for recreational cannabis tourists in our region and if we don't help our industry get started to really compete with Guam and make money, then it was a total waste of our money and time. We will lose the economic race for Tourists in our region, and it will be another "I told you so!"

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Teaching civil discourse—A classroom blueprint for all America

By LINDSEY GALVAO and BENJAMIN KLUTSEY
Tribune News Service

Former teacher Lindsey Galvao is the social studies curriculum specialist at GBH, a multiplatform creator for public media, and curriculum writer for the Civics Collection on PBS LearningMedia. Benjamin Klutsey is the executive director of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University and has facilitated civil discourse-themed workshops around the country, as shown in the new documentary "Undivide US."

First-time teachers and first-time voters gearing up for the 2024 election may have only ever been exposed to toxic polarization—it's their norm.

But for those of us who've been in the classroom for decades, the landscape of teaching civics has changed dramatically. In the early 2000s, America was polarized, but teaching during a presidential campaign was thrilling.

Yet, with the rise of social media, misinformation, and disinformation, we fear that students this year will be denied the same opportunities to learn about democracy and acquire skills to constructively engage one another.

A typical classroom back then analyzed political cartoons and discussed candidates' major policy stances. They listened to sound bytes, compared speech rhetoric and reviewed the election process, from super-delegates to the Electoral College.

In most classrooms, no one told these students what to think or who to vote for; helping prepare such a thoughtful, curious, and motivated generation of citizens to engage in the process was enough. It was nobody's job to make them liberal or conservative.

By 2020, the classroom pulse could not have been more different. Teachers shared that they did not want to touch elections and electoral politics for fear of accusations of indoctrination, bias, or unsafe learning environments. Each day felt like navigating invisible landmines. Many avoided the election completely. Ignoring the topic was not only easier than dealing with an irate parent, hostile administration or divisive school board—it was a means of survival.

This was not a unique experience. A recent RAND study found that two-thirds of teachers are limiting instructional time on political and social issues, even in states that have not required it. That makes sense, given the increase in teacher firings over political concerns in the past four years.

If, in the words of Eric Liu, co-founder and CEO of Citizen University, "the road to democracy runs through the classroom," it's critical to at least discuss the political process. It's more important than ever to prepare students for the public sphere, and in a non-politicized way.

What's more, if we cannot practice the real skills of debate, discussion, analysis and critical thinking, will students learn to practice them in real life?

Political polarization is not new; toxic polarization is. Eighty-four percent of Americans say political debate has become less respectful lately. Growing numbers have negative or hostile attitudes toward the opposing political party, believing it "more closed-minded, dishonest, immoral and unintelligent than other Americans."

The remedy—civil discourse—can be applied in the classroom and among the general public.

To begin, let's stop defining civil discourse by where we see it lacking. Instead, we need a common language around what it means and its purpose. "Civil," from the Latin civilis, means "relating to a society, pertaining to public life, relating to the civic order, befitting a citizen." With such a definition, we're reminded that it's vital to a functioning democratic society, meant to benefit each citizen.

Second, we must come to terms with the fact that in a country of over 330 million people, we're not all going to agree on even trivial things (say, ice cream flavors), let alone public policy or America's future. And that's normal.

Remember: civility is not about being passive or even polite. It's not about agreeing for the sake of agreement. It's merely the avenue to navigate daunting topics that might otherwise feel hopeless, curating citizenship in deeper, more tangible ways and reminding us that we have more in common than we realize.

Hence, to appreciate what we share, we must interact and practice civil conversations. What's often lacking are the right skills.

Good conversations don't result from countering every statement your counterpart makes. They occur when all participants feel heard. You can practice this with "reflective listening"—repeating what you think you heard. When your partner begins to appreciate that you're trying to understand them (with or without agreement), you build trust.

Finally, be curious and authentic. When you've built respect and trust, you can truly be honest about your perspective. The process is simple, but not always easy. It requires practice and can be messy, but sometimes it needs to be messy to be authentic.

The more you listen, the more you'll realize that contrary to the caricature of your fellow citizen presented on TV or social media, this person likely means well and is not an extremist.

In the classroom, civil discourse is simple: It looks like listening. Let's start there and remember that it's about our humanity, which is bigger than politics. Civil discourse is a mirror, reflecting our values back on ourselves. Little doses of courage make it possible.

And when we all feel like we're walking on eggshells, a bit of courage will go a long way.

If you didn't get an extreme-weather alert, you're alone

By MARK GONGLOFF
Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for Fortune.com, the Huffington Post *and the* Wall Street Journal.

With the planet heating up and nature growing more deadly and destructive, new tools to help people gauge their climate risks are landing faster than DVD-sized hail in Texas. But these models still need fine-tuning. For now, a simpler approach might be to just throw a dart at any map of the U.S. Wherever it lands, there's your climate risk.

Nearly the entire U.S. population—99% of the country—has been subject to at least one National Weather Service extreme-weather alert since May, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists, a nonprofit advocacy group. And it's only August! We're still just halfway through the "danger season" of May to October, as scientists described it to the Los Angeles Times.

Many of these people have suffered through multiple disasters at once, an unwelcome phenomenon known as "compound events." People in Houston, for example, last month had to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, including widespread power failures, in the middle of a crushing heat wave.

As of this writing, more than 58 million Americans are under alerts for extreme weather, including California wildfires, brutal heat in Texas and the Southwest and flooding from Alaska to the Northeast. Not all of these were necessarily caused by climate change. But an atmosphere warmed by greenhouse gasses makes such phenomena more frequent and powerful. For example, at least 60% of the heat alerts people have received this season were clearly made likelier by climate change, according to the UCS, citing the research group Climate Central.

Warmer air even makes it rain more by soaking up moisture like a sponge and dumping it in buckets. For every degree Celsius the atmosphere warms, it can hold 7% more water vapor. Deadly flash floods in the Northeast over the weekend, when 3 or more inches of rain fell per hour in some spots, weren't delivered by Hurricane Ernesto, which at that point was far out to sea. Instead, a meteorological "traffic jam" slowed down thunderstorms hauling warm water up from the Gulf of Mexico, according to commercial forecaster AccuWeather Inc.

Scientists called the floods "thousand-year" events, meaning the chances of them happening in any given year were one in 1,000. Last weekend, we got two of them in one night.

The combination of increasingly chaotic weather and population growth in some of the riskiest places in the country means that the number of expensive weather disasters has ballooned in recent years. So far in 2024, there have been 19 separate events that have inflicted at least $1 billion in damage, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Adjusted for inflation, this is already the fourth-busiest year on record. And as attentive readers will remember, it's only August!

These things add up. Billion-dollar disasters alone have done $50 billion in damage so far this year, according to the NOAA. That tally doesn't include recent or sub-billion-dollar catastrophes such as those Northeastern floods or this spring's Texas wildfires, the worst in the state's history. Globally, natural disasters caused $120 billion in damage in just the first six months of 2024, only about half of which was insured, according to Swiss reinsurer Munich Re. The bulk of that pain was felt in the U.S.

Little wonder investors have been pouring money into climate-risk models, as Bloomberg Green detailed recently. Insurers, politicians and homebuyers understandably want granular predictions about where the next disasters will strike in the coming decades. There's even a blossoming industry in betting on these risks that has echoes of the financial crisis — including The Big Short co-star David Burt sifting through model data to estimate potential mortgage losses and Nouriel "Dr. Doom" Roubini building an exchange-traded fund that will include supposedly climate-friendly REITs. Roubini's team will use artificial intelligence to comb ZIP-code-level model data to score REITs on climate resiliency, according to the Financial Times.

The catch here is that the models might occasionally have some trouble with, how do you say, modeling. A recent study from researchers at the University of California at Irvine pitted their model against that of First Street Technology Inc., the best-known provider (and one I and the U.S. government consult often) to gauge climate risks in parts of Los Angeles. The two agreed only 24% of the time. In comments to Bloomberg Green, First Street backed its own product as having superior results. But a third model from CoreLogic Inc. agreed with Irvine or First Street results only about half the time. And the number of these models just keeps growing.

It might be reassuring if we could get them to give more, or at least find the One Model to rule them all. But the fact that heat waves or routine thunderstorms increasingly have the capacity to turn biblical on any given Sunday, and in any part of the country, means that, practically speaking, models will only ever help us so much. Insurers and investors could lose mere profits if they don't take a more holistic approach to risk assessment. Policymakers and homeowners have much more at stake, including lives, homes and livelihoods. They need to be ready to handle the gamut of weather disasters, no matter what a risk score tells them.

Models and the cool maps they produce may offer the appearance of granular precision, but any modeler will tell you their results can't promise that level of foresight. There are margins of error. Don't let your house fall into them.

HARRIS

From page 7

ting president late in the race. It has the capacity to maintain that form and momentum through the closing months of the campaign if it plays its cards right.

No doubt that Harris' acceptance speech tonight will feature the soaring rhetoric typical of these events. Tomorrow, the trail awaits.

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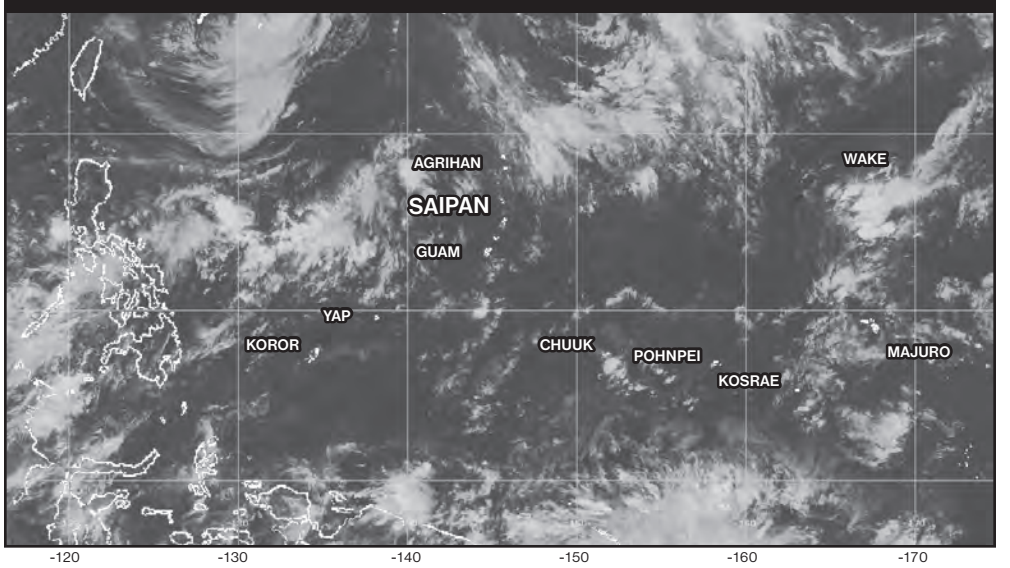
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds becoming east around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
88° 79°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:44 AM MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

It has been pretty quiet overnight. A few showers can be found south-southwest of Guam and to the east, just outside of our coastal waters. Island effect showers are anticipated for this afternoon as more convergence aloft and light winds near the surface is expected in the near forecast. Precipitable water or PWAT is at 2.25 to 2.5 inches, this means there is plenty of moisture for island convection to take root. Seas remain around 3 to 5 feet. Winds are expected to be light to gentle. Overall, marine conditions remain benign.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:10 PM	11:39 PM
Tuesday	-	1:11 PM	-
Wednesday	12:33 AM	2:11 PM	-
Thursday	1:30 AM	3:07 PM	-
Friday	2:28 AM	3:59 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	65° / 47°
Beijing	Light Rain	87° / 69°
Hong Kong	Fair	91° / 80°
Honolulu	Sunny	86° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 67°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 78°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	96° / 80°
Paris	Clear	72° / 54°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	89° / 77°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 71°
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	91° / 73°
San Francisco	Cloudy	66° / 57°
Seoul	Cloudy	91° / 77°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 80°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	87° / 67°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:16 AM	High Tide	1.94
8:08 AM	Low Tide	0.07
3:53 PM	High Tide	1.73
8:27 PM	Low Tide	1.44

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

LOCAL

NZ OFFICIAL SAYS:

Western neglect of Pacific Islands let other nations boost influence

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Western nations, including the United States and New Zealand, failed to understand swiftly enough the geopolitical importance of island nations in the South Pacific, leaving a power vacuum that allowed other countries to increase their diplomatic influence, New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters said.

Peters made the remark in an interview with The Associated Press in his parliamentary office in the capital, Wellington, on Thursday, ahead of an annual summit in Tonga next week of leaders of Pacific nations, including Australia and New Zealand. Crises of sovereignty, climate change and foreign influence in some of the world's smallest and most remote nations are expected to take center stage.

The region of tropical islands and atoll nations, once overlooked by many Western governments, has become a focus of competition in recent years among the world's largest governments for influence, resources and power. The Pacific Islands Forum has exploded in importance as a result, drawing diplomatic and civil society observers from across the globe.

Leaders of tiny Pacific nations are being courted by China with bilateral sweeteners such as infrastructure funding, export markets and security help, leading Australia and New Zealand in recent months to push for the Pacific-style consensus diplomacy of the forum. But they are facing a different landscape than before—in part, Peters said, because of the failures of previous governments of which he was not a part.

"If you are not there as an influence, then other influences that don't share your values might seriously fill the vacuum, and that has happened," said Peters, 79, who is also deputy prime minister, a former foreign minister and the country's longest-serving current lawmaker.

Peters did not name China as the subject of his remarks. But he decried what he termed the rise of "checkbook diplomacy" that has swept the Pacific—funds with political stipulations or which must be repaid, leaving tiny island nations struggling under crushing debt—a strategy by which China has solidified its influence in recent years.

"Like-minded countries like New Zealand will have to deal with that issue, because I know that some of these countries cannot pay it back," he said. Small island nations in crushing debt to foreign powers give the larger country "the influence that was the design behind the loans in the first place," Peters said.

New Zealand, with a population of 5 million—trifling on the world stage, but large compared to most Pacific Island nations, which have as few as 1,500 people—does not challenge the independence of other Pacific countries, Peters said. "We say small states matter and their voice has the right to be respected as much as ours or any larger country," he said.

Peters has in the past six months visited 14 of the 17 other member states of the Pacific Islands Forum. A constant connection is vital, he said, to ensure geostrategic pressures "are handled together in concert by like-minded countries."

However, exhortations from Australia and New Zealand for the island nations to remember their part in what is often called the "Pacific family" have at times irked leaders seeking to forge their own paths—often with China's help. This week, Kiribati announced it was suspending diplomatic visits for the rest of the year, citing its ongoing elections—but provoking questions from some analysts about whether its closer ties with Beijing, and increasingly aloof relations with Australia, were partly responsible.

Peter didn't comment on what he believed had prompted the move. But he said the region's "DNA connection"— the Polynesian navigators who traveled through the Pacific thousands of years ago before finally reaching New Zealand—would prevail.

Peters said his travels this year showed him that the citizens of Pacific islands "have not been seduced" by the bilateral wooing of some leaders.

"Go and ask the ordinary people in the hamlets, the villages, the small towns and hills of the Pacific and they'll tell you what they prefer," he said.

One focus of this year's forum is ongoing unrest in New Caledonia, a French territory where violence between pro-independence residents and French-backed authorities flared in May, killing nine civilians and two gendarmes.

The Indigenous Kanak people have long sought to break free from France, which first colonized the Pacific archipelago in 1853 and granted citizenship to all Kanaks in 1957. The latest unrest exploded over attempts by the French government to amend its own constitution, expanding voting lists in New Caledonia and granting more French residents the right to vote than before.

Kanaks feared that would further marginalize them and denounced a final vote on the matter in 2021 as illegitimate—which France has vehemently rejected. The matter threatens to boil over at the forum.

Peters has not stated a view, although he expressed the need for "major economies to stay engaged in the Pacific," underscoring New Zealand's and Australia's fears that France giving up New Caledonia would open a new vacuum and further threaten an economy that until recently was one of the Pacific's most successful.

"There are other models of what can work," he said. "How about exploring one which keeps friends together?"

He was scathing, however, of Paris' claim that the final vote in New Caledonia was legitimate.

"I did have to remind the ambassador to New Caledonia from France that some of us have been around thousands of years before she ever got near this place, so would she just kindly remember that," Peters said.

He had similar sentiments for the U.S., which invited Pacific leaders to a White House summit for the first time in 2022 and had, he said, underestimated the region before that.

Peters said he had advised "Eurocentric" American officials to "please get engaged and try to turn up," although he added, "But not with the uniform on."

As the leaders converge on Tonga this weekend to confront the existential challenges facing them, such as climate change, Peters will invoke the old friendships of the Pacific family, while urging something more.

"Everything now is an inflection point," he said. "More urgency, more action and more unction."

Business

Google agreed to pay millions for CA news

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Google will soon give California millions of dollars to help pay for local journalism jobs in a first-in-the-nation deal, but journalists and other media industry experts are calling it a disappointing agreement that mostly benefits the tech giant.

The agreement, which was hashed out behind closed doors and announced this week, will direct tens of millions of public and private dollars to keep local news organizations afloat. Critics say it's a textbook political maneuver by tech giants to avoid a fee under what could have been groundbreaking legislation. California lawmakers agreed to kill a bill requiring tech to support news outlets they profit from in exchange for Google's financial commitment.

» Journalists call it a bad deal

By shelving the bill, the state effectively gave up on an avenue that could have required Google and social media platforms to make ongoing payments to publishers for linking news content, said Victor Pickard, professor of media policy and political economy at the University of Pennsylvania. California also left behind a much bigger amount of funding that could have been secured under the legislation, he said.

"Google got off easy," Pickard said.

Google said the deal will help both journalism and the artificial intelligence sector in California.

"This public-private partnership builds on our long history of working with journalism and the local news ecosystem in our home state, while developing a national center of excellence on AI policy," Kent Walker, president of global affairs and chief legal officer for Google's parent company Alphabet, said in a statement.

State governments across the U.S. have been working to help boost struggling news organizations. The U.S. newspaper industry has been in a long decline, with traditional business models collapsing and advertising revenues drying up in the digital era.

As news organizations move from primarily print to mostly digital, they have increasingly relied on Google and Facebook to distribute its content. While publishers saw their advertising revenues nosedive significantly in the last few decades, Google's search engine has become the hub of a digital advertisement empire that generates more than $200 billion annually.

The Los Angeles Times was losing up to $40 million a year, the newspaper's owner said in justifying a layoff of more than 100 people earlier this year.

More than 2,500 newspapers have closed since 2005, and about 200 counties across the U.S. do not have any local news outlets, according to a report from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

California and New Mexico are funding local news fellowship programs. New York this year became the first state to offer a tax credit program for news outlets to hire and retain journalists. Illinois is considering a bill similar to the one that died in California.

Here's a closer look into the deal California made with Google this week:

What does the deal entail?

The deal, totaling $250 million, will provide money to two efforts: funding for journalism initiatives and a new AI research program. The agreement only guarantees funding for a period of five years.

Roughly $110 million will come from Google and $70 million from the state budget to boost journalism jobs. The fund will be managed by UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism. Google will also kick in $70 million to fund the AI research program, which would build tools to help solve "real world problems," said Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, who brokered the deal.

The deal is not a tax, which is a stark departure from a bill Wicks authored that would have imposed a "link tax" requiring companies like Google, Facebook and Microsoft to pay a certain percentage of advertising revenue to media companies for linking to their content. The bill was modelled after a policy passed in Canada that requires Google to pay roughly $74 million per year to fund journalism.

Why are tech companies agreeing to this now?

Tech companies spent the last two years fighting Wicks' bill, launching expensive opposition campaigns and running ads attacking the legislation. Google threatened in April to temporarily block news websites from some California users' search results. The bill had continued to advance with bipartisan support—until this week.

Wicks told The Associated Press on Thursday that she saw no path forward for her bill and that the funding secured through the deal "is better than zero."

"This represents politics is the art of the possible," she said.

Industry experts see the deal as a playbook move Google has used across the world to avoid regulations.

"Google cannot exit from news because they need it," said Anya Schiffrin, a Columbia University professor who studies global media and co-authors a working paper on how much Google and Meta owes to news publishers. "So what they are doing is using a whole lot of different tactics to kill bills that will require them to compensate publishers fairly."

She estimates that Google owes $1.4 billion per year to California publishers. Google disagrees with Schiffrin's findings. A spokesperson said news queries account for under 2% of all searches and that Google doesn't make money on them.

Why do journalists and labor unions oppose the agreement?

The Media Guild of the West, a union representing journalists in Southern California, Arizona and Texas, said journalists were locked out of the conversation. The union was a champion of Wicks' bill but wasn't included in the negotiations with Google.

"The future of journalism should not be decided in backroom deals," a letter by the union sent to lawmakers reads. "The Legislature embarked on an effort to regulate monopolies and failed terribly. Now we question whether the state has done more harm than good."

The agreement results in a much smaller amount of funding compared to what Google gives to newsrooms in Canada and goes against the goal to rebalance Google's dominance over local news organizations, according to a letter from the union to Wicks earlier this week.

Others also questioned why the deal included funding to build new AI tools. They see it as another way for tech companies to eventual replace them. Wicks' original bill doesn't include AI provisions.

Nation

VANCE SAYS

Trump would veto federal abortion ban legislation

NEW YORK (AP)—Republican vice presidential candidate JD Vance says Donald Trump would not support a national abortion ban if elected president and would veto such legislation if it landed on his desk.

"I can absolutely commit that," Vance said when asked on NBC's "Meet the Press" whether he could commit to Trump not imposing such a ban. "Donald Trump's view is that we want the individual states and their individual cultures and their unique political sensibilities to make these decisions because we don't want to have a nonstop federal conflict over this issue."

The Ohio senator also insisted that Trump, the former president who is the Republican nominee this year, would veto such legislation if it were passed by Congress.

"I mean, if you're not supporting it as the president of the United States, you fundamentally have to veto it," he said in an interview that aired Sunday.

Vance's comments come after Democrats spent night after night of their national convention in Chicago last week assailing Trump for his role in appointing the Supreme Court Justices who overturned Roe v. Wade, ending the constitutional right to abortion in the United States and paving the way for bans and restrictions across Republican-led states.

But efforts to try to neutralize an issue that Democrats hope will galvanize voters this fall also risk alienating parts of Trump's base opposed to abortion rights.

"God have mercy on this nation if this is now the position of what was the Pro-Life Party," wrote Family Research Council president Tony Perkins in a post Sunday linking to a story on Vance's comments.

While Trump has repeatedly boasted about his role in overturning Roe, he has, in recent days, pushed back on Democrats' warnings that he will go even further to restrict access if he wins a second term.

"My Administration will be great for women and their reproductive rights," he wrote Friday on his Truth Social platform, appropriating language used by abortion rights activists and the left.

His comments drew a wave of criticism from anti-abortion advocates, including the editor of the conservative National Review, which published an article titled "Trump's Abandonment of Pro-Lifers Is Complete."

Trump repeated his claim hours later at an event in Las Vegas.

"I'm very strong on women's reproductive rights. The IVF (in vitro fertilization), very strong. I mean, we're leaders in it. And I think people are seeing that," he told reporters.

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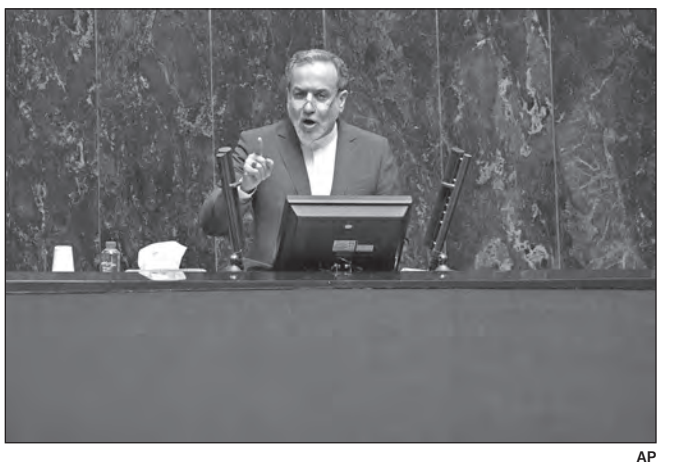
World

Iran's foreign minister vows 'definitive' retaliation vs. Israel



AP

Nominee for foreign minister Abbas Araghchi speaks in an open session of parliament during the second day of debate on the 19 proposed ministers by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2024.

Iran's foreign minister again has referenced his country's planned retaliation over the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Abbas Araghchi said late Sunday he made the remark in a conversation with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani by telephone.

"Iran reaction to Israeli terrorist attack in Tehran is definitive, and will be measured & well calculated," Araghchi wrote on the social platform X. "We do not fear escalation, yet do not seek it—unlike Israel."

Tajani said in a statement he "called for restraint and to pursue a constructive approach, in order to stop the cycle of military actions in the region, which only risks bringing more suffering."

"It is important that Iran exercises moderation towards Hezbollah in order to avert an escalation on the Lebanese-Israeli border, where Italian soldiers of the UNIFIL contingent are operating, and towards the Houthis in order to avoid an increase in tensions in the Red Sea area, where Italy plays a leading role in the (European Union's) Aspides mission," he said in the statement.

Their call came after Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, long backed by Iran, traded heavy fire early Sunday but backed off from sparking a widely feared all-out war.

Meanwhile, a round of high-level talks in Cairo meant to bring about a cease-fire and hostage deal to at least temporarily end the 10-month Israel-Hamas war in Gaza ended Sunday without a final agreement, a U.S. official said. But talks will continue at lower levels in the coming days in an effort to bridge remaining gaps.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the talks, said lower level "working teams" will remain in Cairo to meet with mediators the United States, Qatar and Egypt in hopes to addressing remaining disagreements.

The talks included CIA director William Burns and David Barnea, the head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency. A Hamas delegation was briefed by Egyptian and Qatari mediators but did not directly take part in negotiations.

China opposes US sanctions on firms over alleged ties to Russia's war efforts

BEIJING (AP)—China on Sunday expressed its opposition to the latest U.S. sanctions on Chinese companies over their alleged ties to Russia's war in Ukraine, saying it will adopt necessary measures to safeguard the rights and interests of the country's businesses.

The U.S. on Friday announced sweeping sanctions on hundreds of firms in Russia and across Europe, Asia and the Middle East, accusing them of providing products and services that enable Russia's war effort and aiding its ability to evade sanctions. The U.S. Department of State said it was concerned by "the magnitude of dual-use goods exports" from China to Russia.

The Ministry of Commerce in China in its statement firmly opposed the U.S. putting multiple Chinese companies on its export control list. The move bars such companies from trading with U.S. firms without gaining a nearly unobtainable special license.

The ministry said the U.S. action was "typical unilateral sanctions," saying they would disrupt global trade orders and rules, as well as affect the stability of the global industrial and supply chains.

"China urges the U.S. to immediately stop its wrong practices and will take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interest of Chinese companies," it said.

The U.S. action is the latest in a series of thousands of U.S. sanctions that have been imposed on Russian firms and their suppliers in other nations since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The effectiveness of the sanctions has been questioned, especially as Russia has continued to support its economy by selling oil and gas on international markets.

According to the U.S. State Department, some China-based companies supplied machine tools and components to Russia companies.

Life & Style

'Deadpool' and 'Alien' top charts again as 'Blink Twice' sees quiet opening

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In a sleepy summer weekend at the box office, holdovers reigned supreme as newcomers landed without a splash.

"Deadpool & Wolverine" reclaimed first place at the North American box office in its fifth weekend with $18.3 million. Its cumulative international earnings now sit at over $1.2 billion.

The Walt Disney Co., which owns 20th Century Studios, claimed the top two spots on the charts for the second weekend in a row with "Alien: Romulus" following close behind the foul-mouthed superhero movie. The latest installment in the 45-year-old franchise brought in $16.2 million in its second weekend after a promising opening. Disney's "Inside Out 2" also remained on the charts, raking in $2.1 million domestically in its 11th weekend. Its global earnings are now over $1.6 billion.

"This is an incredible turnaround for Disney, who almost fell off the radar, shockingly enough, last year and over the course of the pandemic," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "They got a couple of billion-dollar films out so far and 'Moana 2' is still up on the way. This is a huge comeback year for Disney—no question about it."

Romantic drama "It Ends With Us," another repeat chart-topper, landed in third place for the second consecutive weekend with $11.9 million. The Sony movie starring Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni, who also directed, has made $242.6 million to date globally. It cost only $25 million to produce.

The new releases were victim to the crowded movie marketplace, resulting in what Dergarabedian called "box office déjà vu," with the familiar films dominating and making it harder for the new releases to find their footing. Dergarabedian says the upcoming Labor Day holiday will likely benefit the newer titles as word-of-mouth spreads and more people head to theaters during the long weekend.

AP

This image released by Amazon/MGM Studios shows Naomi Ackie, left, and Channing Tatum in a scene from "Blink Twice."

"Blink Twice," directed by Zoë Kravitz and starring her life partner Channing Tatum, saw a modest opening, taking in $7.3 million and claiming fourth place on the charts. The Amazon MGM Studios psychological thriller follows Tatum as tech magnate Slater King, who whisks two women away to his private island. While it may seem like a picture-perfect vacation at first, much more sinister events unfold as the visitors learn the truth about the island and the billionaire. The film's budget has been reported at $20 million.

Reviews have been mixed, with audiences giving the film a B- CinemaScore, but the film has been deemed Certified Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes with a 79% score.

Rounding out the top five was "The Forge," a faith-focused coming-of-age movie about a young man finding his way through Christianity. The film opened with $6.6 million and received an A+ CinemaScore from audiences. It was released by Affirm Films, Sony's faith-based banner.

Another new release, "The Crow," was beat out by "Twisters" and "Coraline" in the rankings. "Twisters" entered its sixth week with $6.2 million in domestic earnings and "Coraline," which was released for its 15th anniversary last week, brought in an additional $5.1 million in its second weekend.

Lionsgate's "The Crow," an R-rated adaptation of the acclaimed graphic novel and a remake of the 1994 film of the same name, opened with $4.6 million. The studio also floundered in August with the release of "Borderlands," an adaptation of the video game, which made $15.2 million over three weekends compared to its reported $120 million budget.

To complete the "tale of the holdovers," as Dergarabedian put it, "Despicable Me 4" and "Inside Out 2" closed out the top 10 films of the weekend, bringing in $4.4 million and $2.1 million, respectively. "Inside Out 2" has been on the charts for 11 consecutive weekends and remains the No. 1 animated film of all time globally.

American rapper Macklemore says he canceled Dubai show over UAE arming Sudan paramilitary forces

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—American rapper Macklemore said he canceled an upcoming October concert in Dubai over the United Arab Emirates' role "in the ongoing genocide and humanitarian crisis" in Sudan through its reported support of the paramilitary force that's been fighting government troops there.

The announcement by Macklemore reignited attention to the UAE's role in the war gripping the African nation. While the UAE repeatedly has denied arming the Rapid Support Forces and supporting its leader Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo, United Nations experts reported "credible" evidence in January that the Emirates sent weapons to the RSF several times a week from northern Chad.

Sudan plunged into chaos in mid-April 2023, when long-simmering tensions between its military and paramilitary leaders broke out in the capital, Khartoum, and spread to other regions including Darfur. Estimates suggest over 18,800 people have been killed in the fighting, while over 10 million have fled their homes. Hundreds of thousands are on the brink of famine.

At a contentious U.N. Security Council meeting in June, Sudan's embattled government directly accused the UAE of arming the RSF, and an Emirati diplomat angrily told his counterpart to stop "grandstanding." The UAE has been a part in ongoing peace talks to end the fighting.

The Emirati Foreign Ministry offered no immediate comment on Macklemore's public statement Sunday, nor did the city-state's Dubai Media Office. Organizers last week announced the show had been canceled and refunds would be issued, without offering an explanation for the cancellation.

In a post Saturday on Instagram, Grammy winner Macklemore said he had a series of people "asking me to cancel the show in solidarity with the people of Sudan and to boycott doing business in the UAE for the role they are playing in the ongoing genocide and humanitarian crisis."

Macklemore said he reconsidered the show in part over his recent, public support of Palestinians amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas war raging in the Gaza Strip. He recently has begun performing a song called "Hind's Hall," in honor of a young girl named Hind Rajab killed in Gaza in a shooting Palestinians have blamed on Israeli forces opening fire on a civilian car.

"I know that this will probably jeopardize my future shows in the area, and I truly hate letting any of my fans down," he wrote. "I was really excited too. But until the UAE stops arming and funding the RSF I will not perform there."

He added: "I have no judgment against other artists performing in the UAE. But I do ask the question to my peers scheduled to play in Dubai: If we used our platforms to mobilize collective liberation, what could we accomplish"

The RSF formed out of the Janjaweed fighters under then-Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who ruled the country for three decades before being overthrown during a popular uprising in 2019. He is wanted by the International Criminal Court on charges of genocide and other crimes during the conflict in Darfur in the 2000s.

Co-workers' fight jolts multiple relationships

DEAR ABBY: I've been seeing a man, "Barry," who worked with my younger brother. They had an altercation at work, and Barry was terminated for misconduct. My brother, "Rob," is upset with me because I still see him. Barry did reach out to Rob to apologize and see if they could move on. While my brother has forgiven Barry, he has chosen to have no contact with him, and continues to want to control the narrative.

Am I wrong for going against my brother and continuing the relationship? I was in prior abusive relationships that Rob wasn't concerned about. But when it is about him, he lets me know he's "disappointed" or worried about my well-being. I have set boundaries with them both, but that altercation was between them, not me.

TORN IN SOUTH DAKOTA

DEAR TORN: The altercation between your brother and Barry must have been a doozy for him to have lost his job. You mentioned that you have been in "prior abusive relationships," which tells me your man-picker may be somewhat skewed. Barry may have anger management issues that need to be addressed.

Like it or not, your brother is right that Barry could be dangerous. The altercation may have been between them, but what's to prevent your boyfriend's volatile temper from erupting on you? Your relationship with Barry could be hazardous to your health, which is why I am urging you to move on and find someone more stable.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm in a loving relationship with my wife, who is 10 years older. Last year, we discussed her retiring from the workforce. She's 63 and has worked her whole life. We weren't 100% prepared for this move financially, but I'm happy to see her happy, enjoying time with the grandkids and doing other things.

Here's the rub: She gets bored sometimes. When she gets bored, she spends money and arranges things for us to do that I dislike—like going camping. I still work full time, and I enjoy my weekends at home relaxing. I think it'd be helpful for her to find a part-time job. I have suggested it, but then she gets hostile and asks if I think she's wasting her time. It becomes an uncomfortable conversation.

Any suggestions about what I can say so I won't tick her off while helping her realize she could find something else to keep her busy and contribute financially?

TRYING TO KEEP UP IN ARIZONA

DEAR TRYING: Tell your wife you are happy she is enjoying her retirement, but you are still fully employed. Then remind her that when she decided to leave the workforce, you weren't fully prepared for it financially. Explain that for the time being, you need the weekends to rest, not to go camping, which is one of your least favorite things to do. And while you're at it, mention that you know she enjoys shopping, and a part-time job would give her more discretionary money to do it. I don't think that any of those statements should be inflammatory.

■■■

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DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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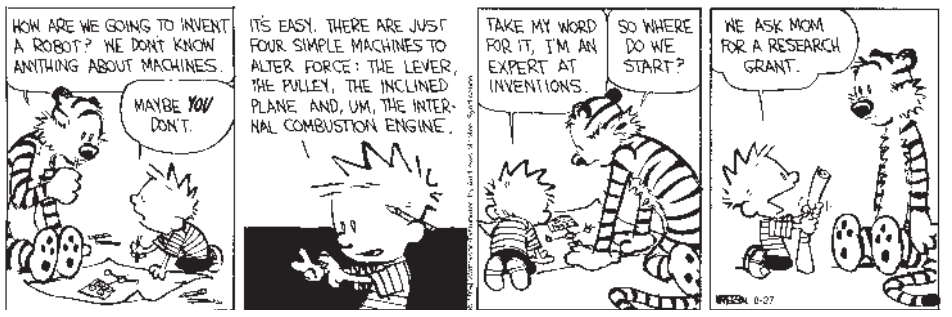
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOW ARE WE GOING TO INVENT A ROBOT? WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MACHINES.
MAYBE YOU DON'T.
IT'S EASY. THERE ARE JUST FOUR SIMPLE MACHINES TO ALTER FORCE: THE LEVER, THE PULLEY, THE INCLINED PLANE AND, UM, THE INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE.
TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, I'M AN EXPERT AT INVENTIONS.
SO WHERE DO WE START?
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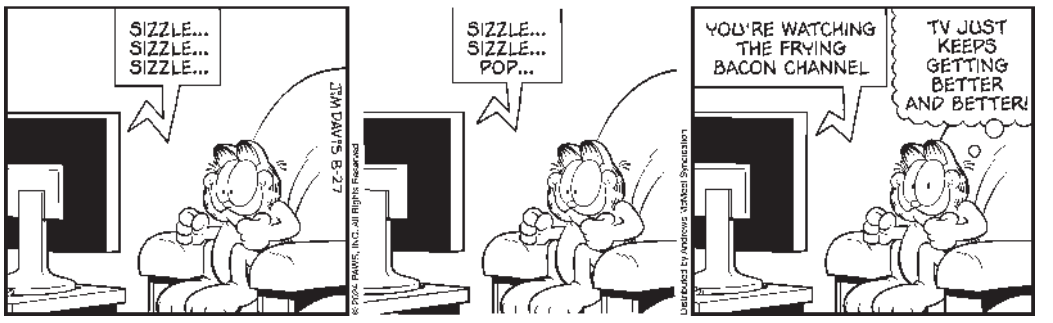

SIZZLE... SIZZLE... SIZZLE...
SIZZLE... SIZZLE... POP...
YOU'RE WATCHING THE FRYING BACON CHANNEL
TV JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER!

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, KIDS TURN INTO FOOD IN YOUR GRAPHIC NOVEL.
YEAH. IT'S SUBTLE AT FIRST. ONE GIRL SPROUTS PINEAPPLE LEAVES.
Poke Poke
ANOTHER KID'S LEGS GET ALL LONG AND ASPARAGUS-Y.
DANG!
ONE BOY'S GUTS TURN INTO ICE CREAM.
OH! IS HE AN ICE CREAM SANDWICH? I LOVE ICE CREAM SANDWICHES!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

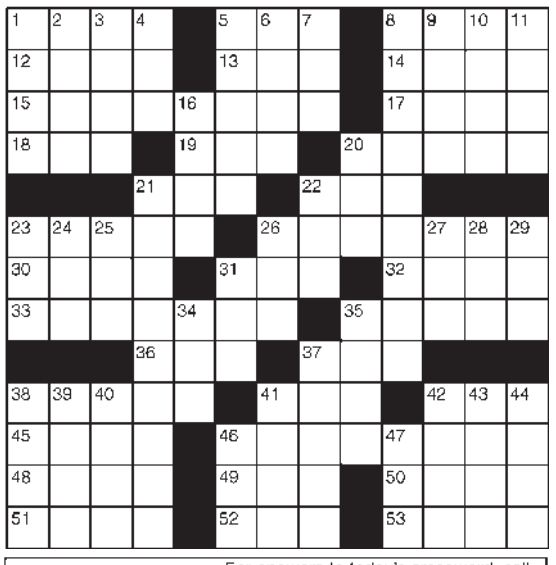
ACROSS
1 — mater
5 Uber alternative
8 Floor cleaners
12 500 sheets
13 Nabokov novel
14 Vicinity
15 "I try" singer
17 Heroine in a Hardy title
18 Fourth-yr. students
19 Zodiac animal
20 Inverness residents
21 Wrestling surface
22 "Humbug!"
23 Commence
26 Turnable fastener
30 Thor's father
31 "Caught ya!"
32 Swiss river
33 Like pound cake
35 Refine ore
36 Retrieve
37 Fib
38 Military group
41 Rowing need
42 Hosp. scan
45 Andy's boy
46 Indemnify
48 Viral video, e.g.
49 Mamie's man
50 Writer Wiesel
51 Professional gp.
52 Ninny
53 "Electric" creatures

DOWN
1 Branches
2 Mad king of theater
3 PC alternatives
4 "The Joy Luck Club" author Tan
5 Gem weight
6 Leading man?
7 Inlet
8 Gene Rayburn's TV show, with "The"
9 Disc-shaped cookie
10 Nuisance
11 Cheeky back talk
16 Mom's mom
20 — Diego
21 Color of an aromatic herb
22 Life story
23 Short do
24 College URL ender
25 "Shoo!"
26 Rationale
27 Dundee denial
28 Internet address
29 Asian holiday
31 Scrap
34 Shoe width
35 Beget
37 George and Victoria, e.g.
38 Prolonged sleep
39 Tarzan's clique
40 Darkens
41 Mighty trees
42 Embedded spy
43 Stir up
44 Mid-month date
46 Actress Farrow
47 "My word!"

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	A	S			P	A	I		V	I	B	E
S	L	O	W		E	L	I		I	N	T	O
A	L	O	E		C	A	L		D	A	W	N
P	A	N	D	A		S	A	F	E			
			D	I	P		C	L	O	S	E	S
P	R	A	I	R	I	E		A	C	C	L	A
H	O	R	N		P	O	T		A	M	A	I
D	R	A	G	S		S	O	Y	M	I	I	K
S	Y	L	V	A	N		V	E	E			
			I	D	E	A		P	R	U	D	E
W	E	N	D		P	U	P		A	R	E	A
O	G	E	E		A	R	M		S	I	F	T
K	O	I	O		L	A	S			S	I	S

Yesterday's answer 8-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kayla Ewell, 39; Aaron Paul, 45; Sarah Chalke, 48; Chandra Wilson, 55.

Happy Birthday: Simplify and eliminate what you don't need. Adjust your budget to fit your lifestyle, and take advantage of institutional or government offers that can improve your living or work conditions. Don't wait for things to come your way; infuse your life with new possibilities and opportunities and distance yourself from those causing discord and confusion. Change comes with choice and acting on your behalf. Trust your instincts and make things happen. Your numbers are 4, 17, 22, 27, 32, 38, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Ask questions, travel about, see the sites and discover what's happening in your neighborhood. Being inquisitive will lead to unexpected opportunities and a chance to develop your skills to use them in new and exciting ways. Explore the possibilities and turn your talents into something sustainable. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Explore how you feel about the people around you and the relationships you are building. Attend events that interest you, see whom you encounter and learn from the experience. Funnel your energy into growth, learning and discovering what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Overspending to impress someone will fall short of your expectations. Use your ingenuity and intelligence if you want to acquire someone's attention. Don't let emotions interfere with the choices you make. Be true to yourself and stick to your budget. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Can you keep a secret? Gossip may intrigue you, but passing along information can damage someone else's reputation and your own. Invest more time in developing your skills and pursuing personal growth and self-improvement; the results will make others envious. Choose how you want others to proceed before sharing information. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Reach out and join forces with like-minded people to make a difference. Stop complaining or criticizing and start doing something that results in positive change. Be a part of the solution, not the problem at home, work or within your community. Speak from the heart and protect your reputation. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Leave yourself some wiggle room; self-improvement doesn't have to cost you. Scour the internet for information that can help you get ahead, or revise your portfolio or resume to greater emphasize what you can offer. Don't sell yourself short; make others aware of your skills and attributes. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be open to suggestions but research whatever you want to pursue thoroughly, especially if it concerns your health or finances. Someone will mislead you if you believe everything you hear. Reliable sources and fact-checking will prove to be valuable. Go the distance and stick to the rules. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pay more attention to the reactions of others. Don't feel you have to participate in something that doesn't feel right. Keep your money and possessions safe and your personal information to yourself. Focus on creativity and using your skills uniquely and fortuitously. Trust your instincts. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Slow down; only make snap decisions or sign up for something if you know what you are getting. You may crave change, but the wrong move could make you anxious and vulnerable. Pay attention to what you have to offer, how you feel and what you want. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make positive changes to your diet and lifestyle to counter poor health and stress. Discipline and routine are encouraged, along with letting go of toxic connections and pastimes that lead to temptation and poor habits. Life adjustments geared toward looking and feeling your best are favored. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Participation is the name of the game. Don't sit down or take a pass when your dance card should be overflowing. Movement, research and getting those close to you to join in will help you maintain your lifestyle of choice. Do what's best for you. Don't let your emotions lead you astray. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Rethink your current situation and who influences your life. Consider paying less attention to what others are doing and more to what helps you establish and maintain a lifestyle that leads to happiness, longevity and peace of mind. Don't give in to temptation. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intelligent and complex. You are helpful and kind.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4						
1	6	5			7	4		
7		9		3	4			6
		8	7		5		6	
9			4	6	8	3	2	
2			3			8		7
	9				6	1		
		7	1		3			9
5		3	9	4	2			

Difficulty: ★★ 8/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	1	4	9	3	6	8	7	5
9	7	8	5	1	4	2	3	6
5	3	6	2	7	8	9	4	1
3	6	9	7	2	5	4	1	8
7	4	5	1	8	3	6	9	2
8	2	1	6	4	9	7	5	3
4	5	7	8	6	1	3	2	9
1	8	3	4	9	2	5	6	7
6	9	2	3	5	7	1	8	4

Difficulty: ★ 8/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE IBERIAN LYNX Solution: 8 letters

N	M	C	O	N	S	E	R	V	A	T	I	O	N	R
M	O	A	T	E	R	R	I	T	O	R	I	A	L	E
S	O	C	N	O	A	E	P	Y	T	O	N	O	M	S
T	C	U	T	A	W	N	M	N	R	A	B	B	I	T
S	R	S	N	U	G	O	D	W	B	R	E	E	D	O
E	E	E	X	T	R	E	M	A	D	U	R	A	P	C
R	P	H	R	E	A	N	M	T	L	R	I	R	O	K
O	U	S	N	E	D	I	A	E	A	U	E	S	P	I
F	S	A	P	X	S	C	N	L	N	S	S	K	U	N
E	C	S	N	A	L	E	E	S	E	T	M	I	L	G
L	U	Y	N	A	I	S	A	R	U	E	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Ⓐ	Ⓒ
I	L	R	W	A	S	N	V	R	A	S	P	O	T	S
D	A	S	M	A	L	E	S	D	C	U	B	S	I	A
A	R	S	H	E	E	P	O	A	C	H	E	S	O	V
E	R	U	T	A	N	W	I	L	D	C	A	T	N	E

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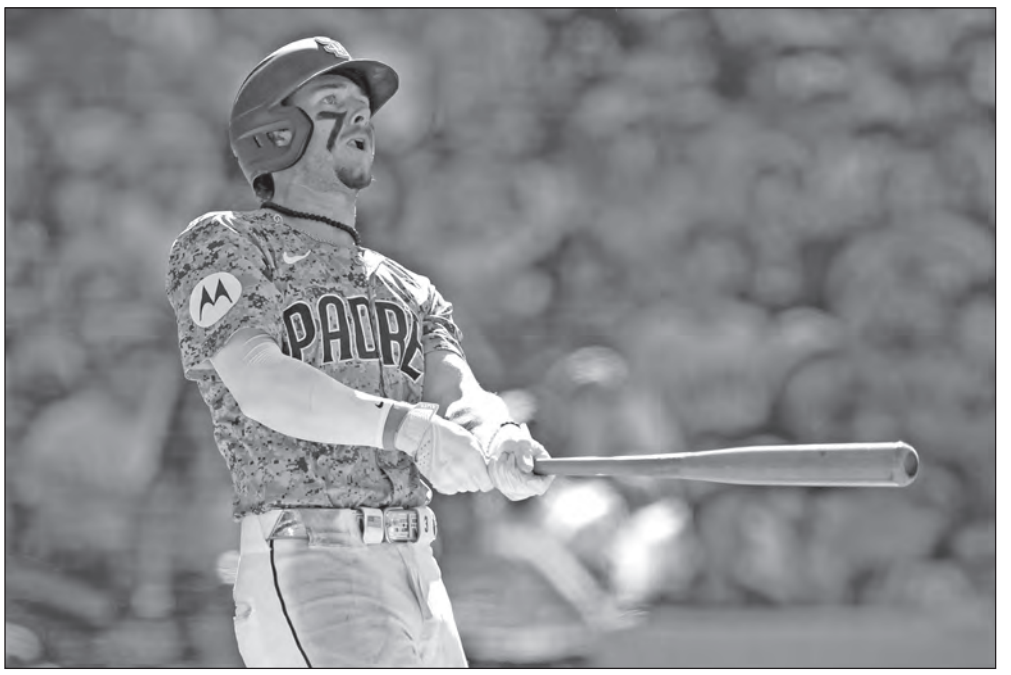
Andalusia, Breed, Cats, Claws, Conservation, Crepuscular, Cubs, Dens, Eurasian, Extremadura, Felidae, Forests, Lynx, Males, Management, Meadow, Monotype, Morena, Mountains, Nature, Nocturnal, Plans, Poaches, Population, Preserve, Rabbit, Research, Restocking, Restore, Save, Sheep, Sierra, Spain, Spots, Tawny, Territorial, Wildcat

Yesterday's Answer: Fundraise

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Merrill hits walk-off homer to give Padres dramatic win over Mets



AP

San Diego Padres' Jackson Merrill watches his walk-off solo home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets, Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024, in San Diego.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Rookie Jackson Merrill homered off Edwin Diaz with one out in the ninth to lift San Diego to a dramatic win against New York and a split of a four-game series between teams in playoff contention.

Merrill gestured toward the Padres' dugout and slapped five with Jurickson Profar, who hit a tying two-run shot in the eighth, before beginning his trot. He was greeted by a wild celebration after touching home. It was Merrill's 19th.

Diaz fell to 5-2.

Robert Suarez (8-1) pitched the ninth for the win.

The Padres are in the NL's second wild-card spot, while the Mets trail Atlanta for the third spot. New York now heads to Arizona for a three-game series against the Diamondbacks, who have surged into the top spot by winning six straight games.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, RED SOX 5

BOSTON (AP)—Eugenio Suarez hit a go-ahead three-run homer over the Green Monster, and the charging Arizona Diamondbacks rallied past the Boston Red Sox 7-5 on Sunday for their sixth straight victory to complete a three-game sweep.

Holding the NL's top wild-card spot, the Diamondbacks (75-56) reached a season-high 19 games over .500 by winning for the 34th time in 47 games. Geraldo Perdomo hooked a solo homer around the Pesky Pole, estimated at just 319 feet.

Su√°rez, who went 4 for 4, had a key two-run double off the Monster on Saturday and grand slam over it in Friday's series opener.

Rafael Devers hit his 200th career homer, a three-run shot, to become the 11th player in Red Sox history to reach that mark. Triston Casas and Tyler O'Neill both added a solo shot for Boston, which fell to 29-35 in games at Fenway Park.

It was the Diamondbacks' second sweep in Fenway, the first came in the club's initial trip to Boston in June 2002.

NATIONALS 5, BRAVES 1

ATLANTA (AP)—DJ Herz struck out eight in five sparkling innings, and Washington beat Atlanta to avoid a three-game sweep.

CJ Abrams had two hits and two RBIs for Washington. Jacob Young also had two hits and scored two runs.

Herz allowed one hit—Orlando Arcia's second-inning single—and walked three in his 14th major league start. Jacob Barnes (8-2) pitched an inning for the win, and Kyle Finnegan got four outs for his 32nd save.

Herz had a rocky 27-pitch first inning, when walked two and hit a batter, but he settled down from there.

Matt Olson hit his 22nd homer for Atlanta, which had won six of seven. The Braves finished with three hits.

GUARDIANS 4, RANGERS 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jhonkensy Noel homered again and Matthew Boyd pitched six effective innings in his first win in more than a year, helping Cleveland beat Texas.

Noel hit a solo shot in the second against Cody Bradford (4-2), a towering 413-foot drive to center. It was the 12th homer for the 23-year-old rookie since his June 26 debut, matching Russell Branyan for the most by a Cleveland player in his first 41 games.

Boyd (1-0) allowed one run and three hits in his third start in his comeback from Tommy John surgery. The left-hander struck out four in his first win since June 21, 2023, for Detroit against Kansas City.

MARLINS 7, CUBS 2

MIAMI (AP)—Connor Norby homered, doubled and singled, and Miami snapped a five-game losing streak with a victory over Chicago.

Jesus Sanchez also went deep and Jonah Bride had two hits for the Marlins, who began Sunday with an NL-worst record of 46-83.

Marlins starter Adam Oller allowed one run and four hits over 5 2/3 innings. Oller (1-1) retired 11 straight before Cody Bellinger's one-out walk in the sixth. Called up from Triple-A on Monday, Oller walked two and struck out six.

Javier Assad (6-4) limited Miami to three runs and six hits in a season-high seven innings. The right-hander walked one and struck out three.

BLUE JAYS 8, ANGELS 2

TORONTO (AP)—Addison Barger and Alejandro Kirk hit two-run home runs, Kevin Gausman matched a season-high by striking out 10 and Toronto beat Los Angeles to complete a sweep of the seven-game season series.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. reached base four times and drove in a pair of runs as the Blue Jays won for the 11th time in 13 meetings with Los Angeles. Guerrero had two hits and the Angels intentionally walked him twice.

Brandon Drury hit a solo home run for the Angels, his second of the season, but Los Angeles lost its fifth straight game and 13th of 16.

Barger homered off right-hander Hunter Strickland in the sixth inning and Kirk extended Toronto's lead by connecting off lefty Matt Moore in the seventh. It was the fifth homer of the season for both.

Barger went 2 for 3 with a walk and homered for the second time in the series. His ninth-inning shot on Friday gave Toronto a 5-4 win.

PIRATES 4, REDS 3

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning, sending Pittsburgh to a victory over Cincinnati.

Bryan De La Cruz was hit by a pitch from Alexis Diaz (1-4) before Grandal connected for his seventh homer - a drive into the first row above the Clemente Wall in right field. It was Grandal's fourth career game-ending homer.

Aroldis Chapman (5-4) handled the ninth for the win. Elly De La Cruz reached on a leadoff single, but Chapman picked him off before striking out Tyler Stephenson and TJ Friedl.

YANKEES 10, ROCKIES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge hit a two-run homer in the first inning to become the fifth player with three 50-homer seasons and went deep again in the seventh as New York routed Colorado.

Judge reached 50 in New York's 131st game. Two years ago when he hit 62 to break Roger Maris' single-season AL mark, Judge reached 50 in the Yankees' 129th contest.

After not homering for a fifth straight game Saturday, Judge reached the milestone when he hit an 0-2 changeup from Austin Gomber (4-9) and lifted it into the Colorado bullpen beyond the left-center field fence to give the Yankees a 2-1 lead.

Judge joined Babe Ruth, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and Alex Rodriguez as the only players with three 50-homer seasons. Ruth, McGwire and Sosa had four 50-homer seasons while Rodriguez had two with Texas and another for the Yankees in 2007.

TIGERS 9, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Andy Ibanez homered and had three RBIs as Detroit sent Chicago to their 100th loss with a victory.

Andrew Vaughn doubled, homered and had two RBIs for the White Sox (31-100), who need to go 12-19 to avoid tying the 1962 New York Mets, who were 40-120-1, for the modern major league record for most losses in a season. Chicago will fall short of the all-time record held by the Cleveland Spiders, who finished 20-134 in 1899.

In MLB history, only the 1916 Philadelphia A's, who were 29-100-1, reached 100 losses in fewer games than the White Sox.

Colt Keith had three hits and three RBIs for the Tigers (65-66), who have won four of five.

Chicago has lost 100 or more games six times in franchise history and in consecutive seasons for the first time.

CARDINALS 3, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Lars Nootbaar hit a two-run single with two out in the ninth inning, and St. Louis rallied past the Minnesota Twins for a win.

Victor Scott II homered for St. Louis, which has won four of five overall.

Willi Castro went deep and Royce Lewis hit an RBI double for Minnesota, which trails AL Central-leading Cleveland by three games.

Nolan Arenado began the Cardinals' winning rally with a one-out single against Jhoan Duran (6-7). Brendan Donovan then hit a grounder to second baseman Edouard Julien, who threw the ball into left field while trying to start a game-ending double play.

PHILLIES 11, ROYALS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Kyle Schwarber had two hits and three RBIs and Garrett Stubbs had a career-best four hits to lead Philadelphia to a win over Kansas City.

After Garrett Stubbs opened the third inning with a triple into the right-field corner, Schwarber hit a double to right-center. Alex Bohm's two-out hit scored Schwarber, giving the Phillies a 2-0 lead.

Schwarber added RBIs on a bases-loaded grounder in the fourth and a run-scoring single that capped a three-run sixth inning.

The Phillies scored five runs in the eighth inning, highlighted by Bohm's two-run single and Nick Castellanos' two-run homer, his 17th of the season.

DODGERS 3, RAYS 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mookie Betts hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning and Los Angeles beat Tampa Bay to take the weekend series.

After Shohei Ohtani was hit in the left wrist on a sinker by Richard Lovelady (3-5), Betts drove the first pitch he saw from the left-hander over the wall in left-center to put the Dodgers back on top.

Kike Hernandez opened the scoring with his ninth homer in the fifth inning, helping the NL West leaders improve to 5-1 on their nine-game homestand. Next up is a three-game series against Baltimore.

Blake Treinen (6-3) got three outs for the win after Gavin Stone struck out seven in seven innings for the Dodgers.

Stone's only mistake occurred in the seventh when Jonny DeLuca led off with his fourth homer. The drive to left-center stopped Stone's 15-inning scoreless streak.

ATHLETICS 4, BREWERS 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Joey Estes allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings, and Oakland scored four times in the fourth in a win over Milwaukee to avoid a sweep.

Estes (6-6) held the Brewers, who had scored 20 runs over the first two games of the series, to only two hits while striking out five and walking one. Mason Miller recorded his 21st save of the season, entering the game with two outs in the eighth and holding a one-run lead.

Brewers starter Frankie Montas (6-9) sent down the A's in order through the first three innings, but Oakland broke through in the fourth for four runs when its first five batters reached base.

MARINERS 4, GIANTS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—Bryan Woo pitched seven strong innings, and Seattle capitalized on two hit batters in the sixth to score twice and beat San Francisco.

The game was tied at 2 when Randy Arozarena was hit by a pitch leading off the sixth. Justin Turner singled and Jorge Polanco was hit by a pitch to load the bases.

Arozarena scored when Mitch Haniger hit into a double play, and Josh Rojas' single drove in another run to make it 4-2.

ASTROS 6, ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Alex Bregman and Yainer Diaz hit solo homers on consecutive pitches in the seventh inning, lifting Houston to a victory over Baltimore and a split of the four-game series.

Ramon Urias hit a three-run shot for the Orioles to tie the game in the fifth, but Bregman and Diaz went deep in the seventh off Burch Smith (2-1) to give Houston a 5-3 edge.

Hector Neris (1-0) got four outs in his first appearance since coming back to the Astros this week. The right-hander had been released by the Chicago Cubs. Bryan Abreu pitched the eighth, and Josh Hader finished for his 28th consecutive save since blowing his first opportunity this season.

Houston remained 4 1/2 games ahead of Seattle atop the AL West, and Baltimore fell 1 1/2 games behind the first-place New York Yankees in the AL East.

Even players aren't sure who will be at their best on NY's hard courts

NEW YORK (AP)—Tennis fans unable to decide who has the best shot at doing well at the U.S. Open have company as the year's last Grand Slam tournament is set to begin Monday. Even the players themselves aren't sure what to expect.

"We've seen people, all the time, surprise us every single week, every single tournament, every Slam. Sometimes there's no rhyme or reason why someone maybe does well," said Jessica Pegula, a six-time major quarterfinalist. "Sometimes it doesn't make any sense."

There is the usual uncertainty that comes in New York, thanks to the vagaries of injuries and the grind of a long season. One additional factor this time could be all of the surface-switching: Tennis at the Summer Olympics was played on courts at Roland Garros, also the French Open site. So players went from clay in Paris to grass at Wimbledon, then back to clay, before shifting to hard courts before the U.S. Open.

"It's a strange year," British player Dan Evans said. "That's for sure."

Pegula, for one, handled that last transition just fine, going from the Olympics to a title at Toronto and a runner-up showing at Cincinnati. Her doubles partner in Paris, 2023 U.S. Open champion Coco Gauff, played in three Olympics events, exiting early in each, then lost her second match in Toronto and her first in Cincinnati.

AP

Philipp Kohlschreiber, of Germany, serves to John Millman, of Australia, during the third round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sept. 2, 2017.

"Changing surfaces, it's tough, not just on your body, but mentally. ... But it's part of the job, and we'll adjust," said Tommy Paul, who won a bronze medal in doubles with Taylor Fritz for the U.S. in Paris and had a 1-2 record in Montreal and Cincinnati. "Maybe there's one player or two players that are burned out from the (Olympic) experience. But other than that, for the most part, everyone is pretty adjusted by now."

The woman who defeated Pegula in the Cincinnati final, No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, skipped the trip back to France for the 2024 Games but said she isn't all that convinced that having—or not having—normal preparation necessarily will dictate results the next two weeks.

"Everyone who came here, they think they are ready to win. I think it's not about who is ready. You can be ready 'better' than the rest of the group," said Sabalenka, a two-time champion at the Australian Open and runner-up to Gauff at last year's U.S. Open, "but at the end of the day, it's all about how hard are you ready to fight for it—especially on those days when you don't feel your best."

Another player not at the Olympics, Frances Tiafoe, reached the Cincinnati Open title match before losing to No. 1 Jannik Sinner, whose two positive steroids tests in March came to light less than a week ago.

Tiafoe, a 26-year-old from Maryland, finds the home crowds and high attention of the U.S. Open bring out his best, so he wanted to concentrate on getting ready for the site of his first Grand Slam semifinal in 2022.

"It's open for a lot of guys this year, for sure. ... It's always different in a Slam. The lights are a little brighter," he said. "We'll see what ends up happening. Personally, I just like where I'm at."

Then there are those such as defending U.S. Open champion Novak Djokovic, who won a gold medal at the Paris Games but didn't play a single hard-court tuneup event, or Carlos Alcaraz, the silver medalist whose only recent match on a hard court was a loss in Cincinnati.

"Obviously, I (would) have loved to have more matches (under) my belt on hard courts before the U.S. Open," said Alcaraz, who twisted his right ankle Saturday but seemed fine when he practiced Sunday. "But, I mean, it doesn't affect me at all."

Perhaps of more interest to someone such as Gauff or Djokovic is this statistic: It's been at least a decade since any woman or man won consecutive championships in Flushing Meadows.

Some figure predictions are hard to come by, generally.

"At the moment ... any given Sunday, anybody can win," said Bianca Andreescu, who beat Serena Williams to win the 2019 U.S. Open. "That's honestly the beauty of it, because it does bring that variety."

Recent Grand Slam results might not offer any clues, even if the players who won this season's trophies at the Australian Open (Sabalenka and Sinner), French Open (No. 1 Iga Swiatek and Alcaraz) and Wimbledon (Barbora Krejcikova and Alcaraz) hope they do, of course.

"I don't really know where my level is, to be honest," said the eighth-seeded Krejcikova, whose only singles matches since her triumph at the All England Club came at the Olympics.

The bottom line, it seems, is that it's anyone's guess what will unfold in New York.

"This (tournament) is a little bit of an anomaly," said Katie Boulter, who competed at the Summer Games for Britain. "You never know what can happen."

Carlos Alcaraz twists his ankle in practice but says he is OK

NEW YORK (AP)—Carlos Alcaraz cut short a U.S. Open training session on Saturday after twisting his right ankle but said he isn't worried that it will be a problem for the year's last Grand Slam tournament.

"I think it is OK. I just stopped my practice just for precaution," said the 21-year-old from Spain, who won the championship at Flushing Meadows in 2022 for the first of his four major trophies. "I didn't feel comfortable enough to keep practicing, just in case if everything is going to be worse."

Alcaraz said he didn't think the injury would put his participation in the U.S. Open in doubt. He was more upset about losing time on court as he gets ready to try to win what would be a third consecutive Slam title after triumphs at the French Open in June and Wimbledon in July.

"I don't want to stop any practice. I want to practice, I want to get better, I want to get ready for the tournament," he said, adding: "I'm sure that tomorrow, or in two days, I'm going to be at 100%, for sure."

The third-seeded Alcaraz is scheduled to play his first-round match Tuesday night in Arthur Ashe Stadium against 188th-ranked Australian Li Tu, who will be appearing in just the second Grand Slam match of his career.

For Alcaraz, the preparation has not been ideal. He played only one match on a hard court in the leadup to the U.S. Open — a loss to Gael Monfils at the Cincinnati Open during which Alcaraz destroyed his racket by repeatedly hitting it against the court, something he later apologized for on social media.

The lack of hard-court work doesn't concern Alcaraz, even if he did acknowledge he'd prefer to have had more before getting to New York.

After all, he noted, he didn't play a lot of matches on clay before this year's French Open because of a lingering forearm issue and only played two on grass before Wimbledon—and left both of those events as the champion.

"I don't want to think that it's going to be the same (as) the previous two Grand Slams," he said with a smile, "but I'm not worried about not having too many matches on hard courts."

Alcaraz also reflected on his most recent high-profile contest: a two-tiebreaker loss to Novak Djokovic in the men's singles final at the Paris Olympics three weeks ago. The tears flowed after that one, and Alcaraz said that day he felt bad for letting his country down.

"It was a difficult moment to deal (with) for me," Alcaraz said Saturday. "But in front of me, I had a really good player that was fighting for the same thing as me. And he deserve it. So days after the Olympics, I realized that I won the silver medal. It was a great achievement for me that I have to be proud of. I'll try to keep going, try to learn (from) this match. ... The next important matches of my career, I'm going to deal (with) in a different way, or a better way, than I did in the Olympics."

Osaka feels better as she returns to the site of two of her Grand Slam titles

NEW YORK (AP)—Naomi Osaka is at the U.S. Open to compete for the first time in two years, and she said Saturday that returning to the site of two of her four Grand Slam titles gives her a boost—but not because she focuses on her past success there.

No, Osaka explained, it's more about hearkening further back, to the days when she was a child in New York and would come as a fan to watch "all the famous players that you could name," such as Rafael Nadal, Serena and Venus Williams, and Maria Sharapova.

"I do think coming to this specific tournament helps me out. But also, whenever I step foot here, I don't really think about the two tournaments I won," said the 26-year-old Osaka, who was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and Haitian father; the family moved to New York when she was 3. "I just think about how I felt when I was a kid, because I did grow up coming here, and I have such vivid memories of watching my favorite players. It's more of a childhood nostalgia that I really enjoy."

She won the U.S. Open in 2018 and 2020, the Australian Open in 2019 and 2021, and used to be ranked No. 1. But after a combination of time off—first for mental health breaks, then because she gave birth—and so-so results this season—she is 18-15 in 2024—Osaka is currently 85th. She will face No. 10 seed Jelena Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open champion, on Tuesday at Flushing Meadows.

During last year's U.S. Open, Osaka paid a visit, watching some tennis and appearing with Michael Phelps at a discussion about mental health.

After getting eliminated in qualifying at the hard-court Cincinnati Open this month, Osaka posted on social media about dealing with defeats and not quite understanding why she hasn't been playing the way she used to.

"My biggest issue currently isn't losses, though; my biggest issue is that I don't feel like I'm in my body. It's a strange feeling, missing balls I shouldn't miss, hitting balls softer than I remember I used to. I try and tell myself, 'It's fine, you're doing great, just get through this one and keeping pushing.' Mentally it's really draining, though," she wrote. "Internally I hear myself screaming, 'What ... is happening?!?!'"

She added that "the only feeling I could liken how I feel right now to is being postpartum" and "I don't understand why everything has to feel almost brand new again."

One issue was that she was having trouble with all of the surface-switching of late, from the red clay at the French Open to the grass at Wimbledon back to the clay at the Paris Olympics and now to hard courts.

Padres advance to semis over Blue Jays, 7-4

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Padres kicked the Blue Jays out of contention after they won, 7-4, in the continuation of the postseason of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

It was a slow burn for both teams at the plate as the night had a chill that a rainy August could only bring. Fortunately, it didn't rain so the game could be completed after multiple rained out games over the past two weeks.

When the batters finally heated up, the Blue Jays had first dibs at home base as Terrel Rabago reached from an RBI single by Frankie Lieto for a 1-0 lead in the third inning. They could've tacked on more runs but left runners on base after Padres pitcher Jose Deleon Guerrero said enough was enough and registered the minimum three outs.

Then, in the next inning, the Padres finally came out to play as their catcher Austin Benavente led things off with a base on balls. A second base on balls was issued by Blue Jays ace Kevin Kapileo, and it all went downhill from there.

Benavente and Jordan Suel scored, followed by two more runs. Then back to the top of the lineup, Ben Jones and J.R. Suel rounded the bases to make it 6-1.

The Blue Jays were mum in the fifth, but found life again in the sixth as Lieto scored for a 2-6 game.

Then the Padres, even with a four-run lead, added another insurance run in the eighth to make it 7-2. That was the icing on the cake as the Blue Jays conjured up just two more runs and failed to rally further, for a 4-7 loss.

The Padres will face off in the semis against the winner of the Bandits vs. Sandlot.

Last Friday's game between the Bandits vs. Sandlot was postponed due to technical issues on the field. If the weather permits, it'll be played tonight. The Falcons faced off against the Cardinals last night in the first semis game if it didn't get rained out.

LEIGH GASES

The first base umpire makes the out call after a headfirst sliding attempt by Blue Jays' James Salalila, as Padres' first baseman Tony Salas throws the ball back to the pitcher during their postseason game of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

SAVEMORE

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back-and-forth battle for supremacy, but later, Savemore with their Big 3—Getsen Jandoc, Alex Lauron, and Daryll Foronda—began to pull away and didn't look back. Meanwhile, Jacob's Bakeshop's Manuel Gatbonton and Dan Fernando were a force to be reckoned with from the 3-point line and within the paint, but the rest of the team were gassed out.

Jacob's Bakeshop did capitalize on some Savemore turnovers to shrink the 51-57 deficit they were in to 62-61 with less than seven minutes left. They could have stacked more points as Savemore's ball handling crumbled which gave Jacob's Bakeshop more chances for fastbreak plays, but they could not convert.

Consequently, Savemore led again by 1 point, 64-63, with less than six minutes left, then lengthened the gap even more in the final two minutes.

Jacob's Bakeshop had free passes once again at the free throw line, but they missed every single attempt to keep them at 63 points. Then, Savemore found themselves with more possession and took advantage to lead, 72-64 at 1:21 left.

Hail Marys were thrown up left and right by Jacob's Bakeshop, with one open three by Gatbonton to make it 67-72, but there just wasn't enough time left to rally even more as Jacob's Bakeshop fell by 5 points.

Jandoc led Savemore with 21 points, while Lauron scored 14, and Foronda put up 10. On the other hand, Gatbonton had a game-high 27 markers and Fernando contributed 24.

Third place went to GMP x Yuman after they defeated Islander Rent A Car, 97-89.

Savemore coach Joel Saplan said that it's his first time to win a championship on Saipan since he arrived here in 1998. With that, he said he felt great and happy. Their strategy, he said, was "man-to-man defense because our opponent was very good."

With the league, the 49-year-old said, "it's good. It's very organized. If there's a next season, we're planning to defend our title."

The season's individual awards will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

Savemore 73 – Jandoc 21, Lauron 14, Foronda 10, Natividad 9, Lucero 8, David 6, Macaraig 3, Movilla 2.

Jacob's Bakeshop 67 – Gatbonton 27, Fernando 24, Bondad 5, Aycardo 5, Dominguez 2, De Guzman 2, Duque 2.

Scoring by halves: 37-36, 73-67.

SABA

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pair it up with another fish.

He then said that with their first win of the tournament that started up in 2022, "it felt good… *Carmelita II*'s Alexander [Castro] Jr., we're both part of Tasi To Table, and I knew he wanted to get the three-peat. So, I'm kind of happy holding him back to get that three-peat, so now it's all on us to get that second win next year and the following. But it's all for the fun and love of fishing."

The TTT Mix Classic is a fishing derby focused on targeted pelagic fish species. Qualifying pelagic species are as follows: Billfish, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, mahi mahi, and skipjack tuna.

The combined weight of two different pelagic species selected by the team in competition is their weight category to determine the winner. Two of the same species do not qualify.

TTT president Gene Weaver was grateful that all 23 boats went out and came in safely. He said he was happy with the turnout despite it being a busy weekend, so it was successful.

He then thanked the sponsors FJR Enterprises, MARPAC, Ghost Products, KKMP, D&Q International Distributors, Island Image & Motion, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife data section.

LEIGH GASES

Second place crew of *Triggah Vibez* poses with their prizes and Tasi To Table members and president Gene Weaver, far right, during the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Tasi To Table Inc. Mix Classic fishing tournament last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

LEIGH GASES

Third place crew of *Carmelita II* poses with their prizes and Tasi To Table members during the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Tasi To Table Inc. Mix Classic fishing tournament last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina.

CHAMPI

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far from him when it comes to riding. I admire him for slowing down for me so I can catch up."

Villacanas, who is nicknamed after the 2009 typhoon, dedicated his Expert Class win to his loving and ever supportive family, especially his wife who has backed his motocross hobby 100% since Day 1.

He also thanked his Trench Tech Racing Team family and everyone from MRA, from the president, to the board of directors, and race flaggers. "Thank you for all the hard work and for making it possible for the 2024 seasons to end successfully. We usually practice Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning. It becomes a routine to us to spend time at the race track with my family together with our MRA family and friends."

Results of the other classes will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	77	54	.588	–
Baltimore	76	56	.576	1½
Boston	67	62	.519	9
Tampa Bay	65	65	.500	11½
Toronto	63	68	.481	14
Central Division				
Cleveland	75	55	.577	–
Kansas City	72	58	.554	3
Minnesota	72	58	.554	3
Detroit	65	66	.496	10½
Chicago	31	100	.237	44½
West Division				
Houston	70	60	.538	–
Seattle	66	65	.504	4½
Texas	60	71	.458	10½
Oakland	56	75	.427	14½
Los Angeles	54	77	.412	16½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	76	54	.585	–
Atlanta	70	60	.538	6
New York	68	63	.519	8½
Washington	59	72	.450	17½
Miami	47	83	.362	29
Central Division				
Milwaukee	75	55	.577	–
St. Louis	65	65	.500	10
Chicago	65	66	.496	10½
Cincinnati	63	68	.481	12½
Pittsburgh	62	68	.477	13
West Division				
Los Angeles	78	53	.595	–
Arizona	75	56	.573	3
San Diego	74	58	.561	4½
San Francisco	66	66	.500	12½
Colorado	48	83	.366	30

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Merrill hits walk-off homer to give Padres dramatic win over Mets

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Savemore dismantles Jacob's Bakeshop for title

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Both teams in the finals—Savemore and Jacob's Bakeshop—dismantled the hierarchy of the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 as they were underdogs that defeated the Top 2 seeds.

Savemore took advantage of their finals run and bested Jacob's Bakeshop, 73-67, last Sunday night at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

It was a hotly contested game as both teams were fired up from the opening tip. Both teams' stars and main shooters gave it their all which resulted in a close matchup throughout, and at the end of the first half, Savemore sported just a 1-point 37-36 lead.

The second half was still a

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LEIGH GASES

Champion team Savemore poses with their trophies and league officials/referees during the awards ceremony of the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 last Sunday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

Runner-up team Jacob's Bakeshop poses with their trophies and league officials/referees during the awards ceremony of the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 last Sunday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium.

Saba Too tops 3rd TTT Mix Classic

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Saba Too was crowned champion of Tasi To Table Inc.'s Mix Classic fishing tournament, as they held their own against 22 other boats in the third edition last Saturday off the waters of the Smiling Cove Marina.

Saba Too reeled in two fish—a marlin that weighed 97.5lbs, and a 46.2-lb yellowfin—for a total weight of 143.7 lbs. The crew pocketed the $3,000 first place prize.

Second place was *Triggah Vibez* that caught a 116-lb marlin and a 11.7-lb skipjack for a total weight of 127.7 lbs. They netted $2,000 for their efforts.

Saba Too toppled the tourney's two-time champion *Carmelita II*, which brought in a 109.1-lb marlin and a 15.5-lb wahoo for a total weight of 124.6 lbs—which was good enough for third place. They went home with $1,000.

The Top 3 were also given handsome trophies, while the crew of *Triggah Vibes* took home an extra $900 for winning the side bet of the heaviest fish.

LEIGH GASES

The crew, along with captain James Roberto, second right, of the championship vessel *Saba Too*, poses with their prizes of the 3rd Annual Tasi To Table Inc. Mix Classic fishing tournament last Saturday at the Smiling Cove Marina. Also in the photo is TTT president Gene Weaver, far left, and TTT board members.

Saba Too was captained by TTT member James Roberto and had a crew of four. Roberto said in an interview after the derby that the waters that day were a little "choppy at times," but for the most part it was "pretty good."

He said they didn't really have a main target to lure in as they just let the lure go and hoped for the best. "It just so happened that as soon as we let the lures go around 7am, we hooked something—the marlin." They then went back out to

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Champi finally hits paydirt on final race of 2024 season

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lenard "Champi" Villacanas leads Justis "Cuki" Alvarez and Charles Cepeda in the Expert Class of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series Round 8 last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park.

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Lenard "Champi" Villacanas finally lived up to his nickname by beating motocross legend Justis "Cuki" Alvarez in the Expert Class in the last race of the season—Round 8 of the 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series—last Sunday at the Cowtown Race Park.

The 43-year-old equipment operator at Construction Materials and Supply, Inc. topped both heats for a perfect 50 points. Alvarez came in second in both heats for 44 points, while former Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda completed the Top 3 with 40 points. Ray Yumul and Bob Ferrer finished fourth and fifth with 36 points and 32 points, respectively.

Aboard his 2022 Yamaha 450 Monster Edition, Villacanas literally had a jackrabbit start on the first heat as Alvarez got snagged on the starting gate and the former never looked back. It was a nice end for the season for the Negros Occidental in the Philippines native as he finished second place six straight times to Alvarez after starting the year with a third-place win in Round 1.

"Weather was not too bad but due to the rains from previous days the track was partly muddy. It was very, very, very hard to beat Cuki. He is the best rider. I am too

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